

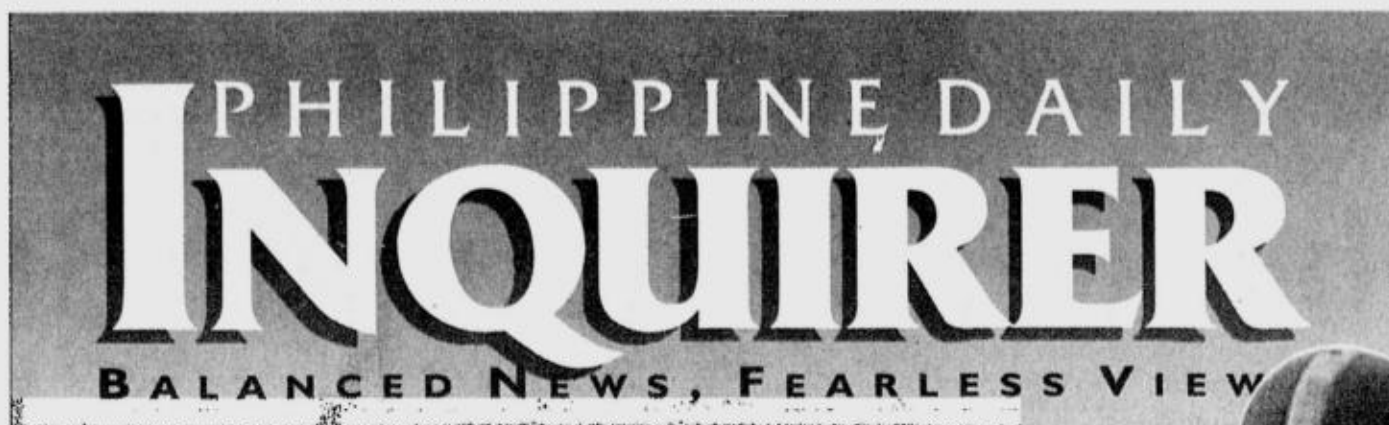
2-day fighting in Lanao leaves 30 MILF rebels dead

Story on
PAGE A2

Indon cleric says US, allies behind attacks

JAKARTA—A radical Indonesian Islamic cleric, a key terror suspect in the world's most populous Muslim nation, on Monday flatly denied responsibility for the weekend's massive nightclub bomb blasts in Bali that killed 188 foreign tourists.

"All the allegations against me are groundless. I challenge them to prove any-
INDON/A19



email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Tuesday, October 15, 2002 ★ 56 pages / 4 sections / vol. 17 / no. 309

website: www.inq7.net

Indonesia: We are sure al-Qaida here

RP calls for regional meet against terrorism

THE PHILIPPINES is offering to host a regional conference on terrorism to strengthen a united front after the deadly bomb attack in Bali, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said yesterday.

Golez, who made the announcement after a closed-door meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Cabinet officials and leaders of Congress, said the forum would include representatives of all Southeast Asian countries, the United States, Australia, Japan and other "countries in the periphery."

"We will discuss how we can combine our efforts in the fight against terrorism, recognizing that (this fight) is not a fight

by a single country but a collective effort by all countries," he said.

Golez also said the President wanted to have the conference "as quickly as possible, and I think the timing's perfect right now, because everybody's concerned about the Bali incident."

While no suspects have yet emerged in the bomb attack, the Philippines has realized that "there might be some threats to the region with respect to some international terrorist organizations," he said.

"The President gave general instructions to the police and the military (to go

RP/A6

BALI, Indonesia—The death toll in the worst terrorist attack since Sept. 11 in the United States last year rose to at least 190 yesterday, but three days after the bombing in fabled Kuta Beach no one had yet stepped forward to claim responsibility.

Indonesian officials, however, categorically blamed the al-Qaida terrorist network and its extremist allies.

"We are sure the al-Qaida is here," Matori Abdul Djilil, the country's defense minister, said after a Cabinet meeting in Jakarta yesterday. "The Bali bomb blast is linked to the al-Qaida with the cooperation of local terrorists."

It was the first time that a top government official implicated al-Qaida in the late Saturday attack.

On Sunday, the New York Times quoted senior US government officials as saying that the incidents showed "the terror network had reconstituted itself, with smaller groups prompted to begin new attacks by inflammatory new messages from (the al-) Qaida leaders."

Officials and analysts from around the world pointed the finger of suspicion at the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), a regional Islamic militant group with close ties to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida. (See related story.)

"An emerging trend seems to be that the al-Qaida has decentralized its terror activities given the close attention paid to it," said security analyst Andrew Tan of Singapore's Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies. "The Al-Qaida itself is a very small organization, not more than 3,000 members, but they see themselves as a vanguard for radical Muslim activity and action all over the world and in Southeast Asia they have co-opted some of these local radical groups."

Tan said senior members of the JI, including one of its alleged leaders, Hambali, an Indonesian Islamic fundamentalist also known as Riduan Isamuddin, are believed to be members of the al-Qaida itself.

Many JI operatives were also trained in the terror network's Afghanistan

INDONESIA/A18

Mikee romps off with third RP gold

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—After a series of heartbreaking losses in billiards, boxing and basketball by the Philippines, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski yesterday redeemed her country's wounded pride in the Asian Games by capturing its third gold medal in a sport nobody had expected her to win.

The 28-year-old Mikee, riding Rustic Rouge, showed grace under pressure in winning the gold medal in show jump-

ing on the last day of the games here. (See related story in Sports, Page A20).

"This is for God above all, for our countrymen and for my husband Dodot who is celebrating his birthday today," Mikee said after circling Busan's Equestrian Grounds with the Philippine flag.

"I can't believe it. Nobody thought our team would win. But today's our day," she added.

Mikee and South Korea's Lee Jin-Kyung, riding Uncle Harry, both fin-

MIKEE/A18

Peso plunges to 14-month low of 53.03

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COST of fuel, electricity, phone service and of almost everything else may further go up as the peso continues to weaken against the dollar.

The peso plunged yesterday to its lowest level in 14 months, weighed down by security concerns after the bomb attacks in the Indonesian island resort of Bali that killed at least 190.

The local currency closed at 53.03 to a

PESO/A6



FAMILY members of a victim who was killed by a bomb blast cry after checking the bodies at the Sanglah Hospital in Denpasar, Bali. Hundreds of foreign tourists tried to escape from the resort island after Saturday's car bombing incident.

AFP

Blast victims praise rescuers' bravery

BALI, Indonesia—When Henry Geldenhuys, a surfer from Plettenberg Bay, South Africa, tried to rescue a trapped woman from deep inside the Sari nightclub on Kuta Beach on Saturday night, he failed on his first attempt, the intense heat driving him back. But on his second try he was successful.

"When I splashed water on her skin, it was like a frying pan," he said.

With two Indonesians, an Australian and two New Zealanders, he formed a small rescue team to go after other victims still inside. He said he managed to rescue four people, carrying them out on surfboards, but he expected only the woman to survive.

"I can't sleep, it's all just images," he said.

Jared Booth, of Adelaide, Australia, said rescuers dunked blast victims in the pool at his hotel, located about 100 meters from the nightclub. They broke down doors to hotel rooms to grab extra blankets and sheets to bandage the wounded. "They just used all the sun lounges as beds for people and were pouring water over people."

"We went downstairs and it was just people everywhere, burnt, moaning and in pain. We were pretty lucky," Booth said. "Three or four people in front of the hotel died after coming out of the pool. It was just unbelievable."

A Queensland man said he helped about 50 screaming people clamber over a wall at the rear of the club, just seconds after the blast.

"We just watched the roof collapse over the dance floor and just ducked down for cover," Andy Miller, 24, said after flying home to Australia.

"It was about four meters high—we had to lift people up and climb over the roofs and onto balconies and out through stairwells." Miller suffered hearing loss and shock in the blast.

The rescuers' inspiring bravery was reflected in the attitudes of many of the victims.

"The patients are inspirational, they're being so brave," said Australian nurse Chrissy Lincoln. "They're asking about each other rather than their own injuries and obviously a lot of them know people who have died."

BLAST/A18

4 camp guards jailed for escape of 2 Abu suspects

By Christian V. Esguerra
and Michael Lim Ubac

FROM jail guards to jailbirds.

That's what happened to four jail guards of two suspected Abu Sayyaf members who escaped Saturday. They are now detained in a cell they

used to guard.

JO2 Rolando Enrile, JO1 Jerik Pilapil, JO1 Danilo Untanillas and JO1 Joseph Villegas were jailed yesterday morning following the escape of Anni Sailani, 30, and his brother Iping, 24, from the Metro Manila Rehabilitation Center (MMRC) inside Camp Bagong Diwa in

Taguig City, according to SJO2 Reyland Tabios.

The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) also filed yesterday criminal charges against the four guards for "infidelity in the custody of prisoners" before the Rizal provincial prosecutor's office. The BJMP is set to file ad-

ministrative charges against them after completing today its investigation of the escape.

Initial investigation showed that the Sailani brothers managed to walk out of their detention cell by disguising themselves as Muslim women. The head of

4 CAMP/A19



Malaysia tells RP: Say sorry for rape error

KUALA LUMPUR—On top of everything else, Malaysia wants the Philippines to say it's sorry.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar yesterday urged the Philippine government to apologize for believing that the 13-year-old girl who accused several

MALAYSIA/A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/15/02

Second FRONT PAGE

Moro rebel death toll up to 30-AFP

GOVERNMENT troops intensified their assault on Muslim rebel groups in the southern Philippines on Monday, as guerrilla casualty figures in two days of fighting rose to 30 dead, the military said.

Soldiers began a massive ground assault after artillery and air strikes on Muslim rebel positions in Lanao del Sur left about 20 rebels dead on Saturday, Armed Forces of the Philippines

spokesperson Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion told reporters yesterday.

Ten more members of the Muslim separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front were killed the following day, Sunday, the military said in a subsequent report, without giving fur-

ther details.

Purificacion said the "preemptive military strike" was launched after the MILF, backed by members of the smaller Abu Sayyaf group, were spotted massing in the area.

The guerrillas apparently were engaged in armed training in violation of a ceasefire agreement with the government.

"Right now, the military (has) just started the ground assault," Purificacion said. "There will be no letup until the last terrorist is

decimated or captured."

The MILF has been waging a rebellion for the establishment of an independent Islamic state in Mindanao since 1978.

The group signed a ceasefire agreement with the government last year, leading to peace negotiations.

Skirmishes have persisted, however, with the military and the MILF accusing each other of provoking the hostilities.

The military has also accused the MILF of sheltering Abu

Sayyaf rebels on the run from a massive military manhunt, a claim denied by the MILF.

The Abu Sayyaf is a smaller albeit more violent band of self-proclaimed Islamic fighters notorious for kidnapping foreign and Filipino tourists and beheading some of them.

Troop reinforcements, meanwhile, were dispatched to nearby Jolo island, where fighting between an Abu Sayyaf faction and the military continued to rage.

Eleven Marines were killed

and 25 others were wounded in a clash with the guerrillas also on Saturday.

Purificacion, citing intelligence reports from the field, said senior Abu Sayyaf leader Radulan Sahiron was wounded in the fighting and six of his followers were killed.

AFP chief of staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor has authorized the use of "maximum air assets and artillery" against the MILF in Lanao del Sur, the military spokesman said. **AFP**

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Solon flies to Iraq for peace meet

A CONGRESSMAN strongly opposed to any United States action against Iraq is now in Baghdad to attend a peace summit there today.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran, who left on Saturday, was invited by the Iraqi Baath Party to attend what his aides called a "referendum for peace against the US war."

According to fellow Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, Beltran was among several international observers invited to attend the "people's referendum."

In a statement, Beltran dismissed as "false" a report by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines that he was representing the Communist Party of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front at the people's referendum in Baghdad.

He also said he was not going to Iraq to seek financial aid for the CPP-NDF or the New People's Army.

"If anything, I'm here to represent Bayan Muna and the exploited and oppressed Filipino people and to extend to the Iraqi people our unity in the struggle against US armed aggression and inhumane hegemony," Beltran said.

"I hope National Security Adviser Rolito Golez and Foreign Secretary Blas Ople aren't going to tag every Filipino who goes to Iraq a terrorist," he added. **C.O. Avendaño**

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NSC affirms RP support for US vs Iraq

By Carlito Pablo

THE NATIONAL Security Council affirmed yesterday the Philippines' support for the United States in its war with Iraq.

The NSC led by President Macapagal-Arroyo convened two days after the US Congress passed a joint resolution supporting President George W. Bush's use of force against Iraq.

The NSC, however, hedged on whether the country would support a unilateral US military action against Iraq, saying it will be "honoring the process in the United Nations."

In a briefing, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the US Congress resolution "was in accordance with the expected timetable and, therefore, we are maintaining our current policy."

"Basically, the government is prepared to support the fight against terrorism, and to honor the process in the United Nations. It is also prepared to extend security, humanitarian and political support to the US," Golez said.

Golez said the Macapagal administration considers as "highly hypothetical at the moment" the possibility that the US might launch a unilateral strike against Iraq, if it fails to get the support of the UN Security Council.

"If this (attack) happens, however, the NSC will meet again to discuss its consequences and

the response of the Philippine government," Golez said.

President Macapagal had said in a major policy announcement on Sept. 17 that the UN should seriously consider the case presented before it by the US against Iraq.

Golez said debates on the issue in the Security Council are scheduled to begin this week.

The NSC also received a report from Ambassador Roy Cimatu, head of the Middle East Preparedness Team, on contingency plans for 1.3 million Filipino workers in the region.

Golez said the government is preparing for the advance evacuation of some 106 Filipinos in Iraq, while a "small fraction" of 60,000 Filipinos in neighboring Kuwait may opt for

voluntary relocation.

Golez said Cimatu had recommended that Filipinos in so-called non-risky countries stayed put.

The countries are Israel, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Egypt, Iran, Lebanon and Syria.



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo (center) leads opening prayers at the National Security Council meeting at Malacañang yesterday. Others in photo are (from left) National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, former President Fidel V. Ramos, former President Corazon Aquino and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

EDWIN BACASMAS

The NSC also looked favorably on passing a national ID system in the light of recent terrorist threats, Golez said.

"In the past, the

dangers of having a national ID system were thought to be just goblins. Now we know it's a must if we are to fight international terrorism," he said.

He said a national ID would prevent terrorists from taking on multiple false identities.

He said the idea to revive the national ID was broached by Sen. Ramon Mag-saysay Jr. during the NSC meeting.

Senate President Franklin Drilon followed it up with a suggestion that the proposal be "packaged to the public" in a way that would dispel fears the ID system would intrude on a citizen's privacy.

"The objective is to

cover all Filipinos with the national ID," Golez said.

In a related development, some congressmen yesterday moved to stop the government from committing the country to any unilateral action the US may take against Iraq, following the US Congress' approval for such an action.

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Peso plunges to 14-month low of 53.03

From page A1
dollar, its lowest level since Aug. 9 last year. It closed at 52.75 to the dollar on Friday.

The peso traded between 52.90 and 53.05 to the greenback on volume of \$109.4 million, according to the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

"The peso traded weaker as expected because of jitters in the aftermath of the Bali bombing," a dealer with a local commercial bank said.

"Fears that local groups with al-Qaida links would launch the same attacks are a big dampener for the peso," he added.

The bomb attack in Bali came

two days after a bomb, allegedly planted by Moro rebels, ripped through a bus terminal in Kidapawan City, killing six people.

An Oct. 2 bomb attack in Zamboanga City also killed a US serviceman and three Filipinos. Officials, however, said there was no evidence yet to link the Indonesian bombings to the attacks in the Philippines.

BSP intervention

Dealers said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) sold as much as \$35 million in the spot market to rescue the peso.

Foreign banks, usually active on behalf of central banks, were

spotted selling dollars at P53.99 after utilities jumped in to buy dollars, eyeing higher oil prices.

Traders said oil and energy companies bought huge volumes to finance their importation of crude and finished oil products in line with the government's order for them to build up a 40-day stock.

The BSP sold between \$25 million and \$35 million when the peso hit 52.99 to prevent it from breaching 53, traders said.

The local currency, however, continued dropping to a low of 53.05 because of buying pressures from the oil and energy sector.

"When it was obvious that the peso drop was unstoppable, the central bank stopped intervening and left the peso alone," one trader said.

Recovery

Monetary officials said they expected the peso to recover in the

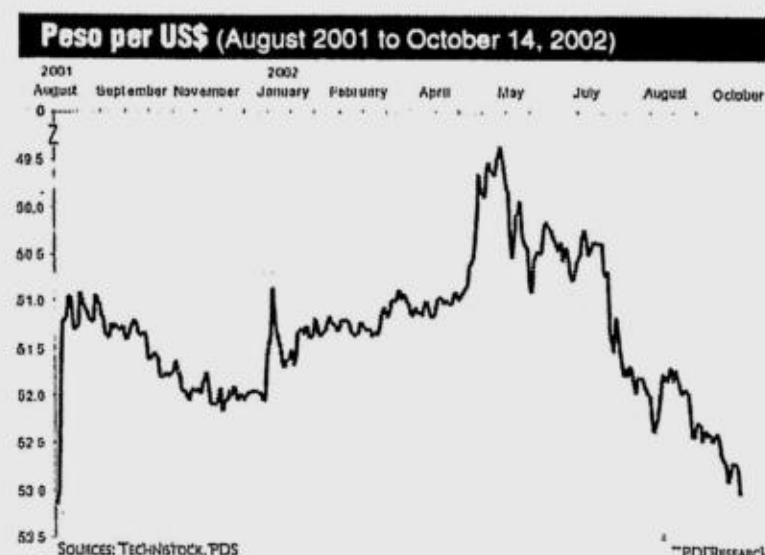
coming weeks. The country's more than 5 million overseas workers are expected to remit billions of dollars to their families here in time for the Christmas holidays.

Central bank officials are expecting remittances from overseas Filipino workers to hit \$8 billion by year's end, up 30 percent from last year's figure.

The peso is also seen getting a lift from exporters. Exports are expected to grow by more than 4 percent this year from a 15.7-percent contraction last year.

Traders, however, were not as confident as the central bank, saying today's performance of the peso would determine where the currency would go in the next two weeks.

"What prevented a further decline was that many companies, except for those in the oil-related business, refused to buy dollars at this level, thinking it was al-



Sources: TICHIN-STOCK, PDS

ready expensive for them," a trader from a local bank said.

If the peso continues to lose ground, there is a good chance that more companies will scramble for dollars, according to an-

other trader.

In yesterday's trading, the peso opened lower at 52.95 as it tracked the Indonesian rupiah, Thai baht and Singapore dollar.

With reports from Reuters

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RP seeks regional meet

From page A1

on) alert status in view of what happened in Indonesia," Golez added, noting that while there had been "no specific threat" of similar bomb blasts in the Philippines, "we cannot take anything for granted."

But he said it would be premature to link the bombings in Indonesia to the series of bombings in the Philippines, including the Oct. 2 attack in Zamboanga City that killed a US Green Beret.

Nevertheless, Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. has directed the 16 PNP regional directors to enforce security measures at tourist destinations and resorts, vital facilities, industrial zones and embassies.

"There is a directive to our regional commands regarding this matter to continuously safeguard the areas where tourists and plenty of people (converge)," said Deputy Director General Clyde Fernandez, deputy chief for administration.

Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, director for the National Capital Region Police Office, said more policemen would be deployed in the streets and vital installations to thwart any terrorist attempt.

At a press conference at the NCRPO headquarters in Quezon City, Velasco said he had ordered all five police districts in Metro Manila to go on heightened alert down to the precinct level and to intensify intelligence collection.

He said that while measures had been in place since the recent communist-led raids in towns around Metro Manila, this time security guards and barangay officials would be called in to help. He also said the Armed Forces had been tapped to augment security forces in the metropolis.

Velasco added that Metro policemen were conducting "selective checkpoints" also as part of an intensified campaign against crime.

Manado

The Department of Foreign Affairs is considering the possibility that the Saturday attack on the Philippine consulate in Manado could be related to the bomb blast two years ago in Jakarta that nearly killed then Philippine Ambassador to Indonesia Leonides Caday, DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said.

He said Philippine authorities in Indonesia were closely monitoring the conduct of the investigation in that country.

Hours before the bomb attack in Bali, a homemade bomb was thrown at the Manado consulate, causing minor damage. No one was reported injured.

"We have yet to issue an advisory against travel in Indonesia," Lecaros said.

He said the DFA and other concerned government agencies would evaluate the situation in Indonesia to determine whether precautionary measures such as a travel advisory would be necessary.

"We can't just issue any advisory without evaluation. We would not want that to happen to us," he said, adding:

"Of course, Bali is just one of the 13,000 islands in (Indonesia)."

But senators said the Philippine mission in Indonesia was a likely target of terrorist attacks because of the Philippines' unqualified support for the US war on terrorism. They also cautioned the government against supporting the United States' unilateral war against Iraq without the consent of the United Nations.

Sen. Manny Villar, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, said more terrorist attacks were expected to occur in countries perceived to be US allies.

"Clearly, this (bombing in Bali) was the work of a terrorist network," he told reporters. "We expect more attacks to take place because of the US war against Iraq. We can't adopt a (foreign) policy based on fear, but it's better for us to be careful."

Senators Robert Barbers and Teresa Aquino-Oreta urged the police and military to strengthen security measures in vital installations, tourist spots and other public places.

Barbers said the bombing in Bali validated earlier warnings raised by the United States that the al-Qaida terrorist network would also target the Southeast Asia and was working with local counterparts.

No compassion

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said terrorism had accelerated its pace, thus requiring every nation to take swift and drastic action.

"We should bite the bullet and strike at terrorism with all the resources at our disposal. Terrorism deserves no compassion," he said.

Sen. Loren Legarda called for the strengthening of intelligence-gathering capabilities.

"To chop off the local tentacles of shadowy terrorist groups, our government should have its ear close to the ground while keeping in touch with parallel efforts by other countries to combat this plague," she said. "In fighting terrorism, no nation should be an island unto itself."

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan expressed outrage over the bomb attack in Bali, but said the United States should not capitalize on the public outrage to justify expanding its military presence in the region.

"The Indonesian people should not be rushed into plunging into the US-led war and thereby mimic how the US and Philippine governments made the country a giant US base through military exercises, poisoned the atmosphere for peace negotiations, and declared revolutionaries as terrorists—all in the name of anti-terrorism," said Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño.

On another front, state prosecutor Roberto Lao said there was evidence to charge two foreigners who allegedly provided the money to jailed Indonesian Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi to buy explosives for a foiled attempt to bomb Western targets in Singapore.

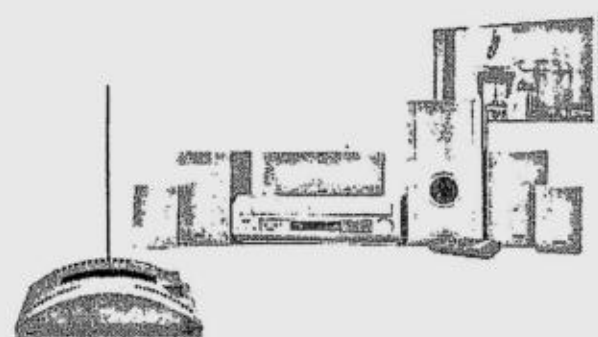
Lao said Malaysian Faiz bin Abu Bakar Bafana and Indonesian Riduan Isamudin—the first was arrested in Singapore and the other is still at large—provided funds to al-Ghozi for the purchase of 1.2 tons of explosives in Cebu for the planned attacks.

He said that when the plot was foiled with the arrest of several suspected terrorists in Singapore, the explosives were left buried and later dug up by Philippine authorities in a backyard in General Santos City through a tip from al-Ghozi.

Lao said al-Ghozi's testimony and records of money transfers obtained by prosecutors were strong evidence "that Bafana and Isamudin funded the procurement of explosives to be used on Singapore in pursuit of their jihad (holy war)."

He added that Philippine prosecutors would charge the two in court in absentia this week. *Reports from Inquirer wires, TJ Burgonio, Norman Bordaadora, Cynthia D. Balana, Alcuin Papa and Gerald G. Lacuarta*

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Solons clash Customs man quits after scolding on vote bill

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE SENATE and House have presented two versions of the absentee voting bill that are worlds apart that reconciling them would present an insurmountable problem, according to administration Sen. Joker Arroyo.

The Senate version, which was passed last week, allows an overseas Filipino to go through the entire process, from registration to voting, by mail.

Arroyo found this so objectionable that he voted against the measure, the only one in the upper chamber to do so.

"Nobody gets to see his (the voter's) face," said Arroyo in a phone interview.

The House version prescribes that registration and voting be done in person through consulates or embassies abroad.

Asked how the Senate bill with the objectionable provisions won approval, Arroyo said many of the senators were "afraid" of the overseas voters.

Irreconcilable

The overseas Filipino vote is thought to number from four to seven million, depending on which version of the two bills prevails—another major point of contention.

The Senate version would enfranchise even immigrants, or those Filipinos who have become permanent residents in their host countries.

The House version explicitly disqualifies immigrants from participating in absentee voting for national elections.

Arroyo said the prospects of reconciling the two versions were dire.

But Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada said he would like to see the House bill passed first before worrying about how to reconcile it with the Senate version.

He said the House would be approving the bill today.

The House version disallows registration and voting by mail.

In the latest version of House Bill 3570, only qualified overseas Filipinos who have not renounced Philippine citizenship are allowed to vote in the elections for president, vice president, senators and party list representatives, as well as plebiscites and referendums.

Decisive vote

The bill disqualifies immigrants or Filipinos permanently residing out of the Philippines who have renounced their Filipino citizenship and have pledged allegiance to a foreign country.

This would bring down the number of expected overseas voters from seven million to four million, a large chunk of votes that is expected to decide the presidential elections.

The House version also provides for absentee voting in only 16 of 19 countries where there are high concentrations of Filipinos and where Philippine embassies and consulates are supposed to set up "counting sites."

Lozada identified the 16 as the United States, Saudi Arabia, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Australia, Greece, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Spain.



NAIA District Customs Collector Celso Templo resigned after reportedly being given a dressing down by President Macapagal-Arroyo for the lackluster performance of his tax-collecting unit. ROGER MARGALLO

By Norman Bordadora

A RANKING customs official yesterday resigned from his post at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport two days after President Macapagal-Arroyo reportedly bawled him out for the lackluster collection at the country's premier air terminal.

The Naia district collector, Celso Templo, announced his irrevocable resignation from the bureau before employees of the Bureau of Customs gathered at the Naia for the flag-raising ceremonies early yesterday.

"I took it to mean that the President has lost her confidence in me. I have no choice but to resign," Templo told Naia reporters.

Templo was among the customs officials led by commissioner Antonio Bernardo who were summoned to a conference in Malacañang on Saturday.

Sources said that the President had singled out Templo as being responsible for one of

the customs districts whose collection performance this year was found to be quite poor.

The President reportedly told Templo that his performance was being watched closely after the collections at the Naia dipped 14 percent compared to last year's figures.

Templo is supposed to have explained that the decrease in customs revenue at the airport was caused by factors beyond his control.

"The collections decreased because of the economic crisis," Templo said.

He said the P13 billion collection target for the airport was not realistic because of the marked decrease in the country's imports.

"A big number of businesses have already stopped importing goods because of the dollar exchange rate," Templo said.

He said the government's reduction of the tariff on some dutiable goods had caused a further decline in the district's revenue collections. Norman Bordadora

Dayrit pushes shift to iodized salt

By Armand N. Nocum

THE HEALTH department yesterday started a national campaign to make Filipinos switch to brain-boosting iodized salt, noting that iodine deficiency may be contributing to the poor academic results of Filipino schoolchildren.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said the department was taking the "Patak sa Asin" (A Drop of Salt) program so seriously that it would not hesitate to order the confiscation of non-iodized salt.

"We will confiscate from vendors

the non-iodized salt, but we will replace it with iodized salt," he said, adding that salt manufacturers have already made the switch to iodized salt.

The Department of Health wants to increase iodized salt use from the present 20 percent to 80 percent at the end of the year.

Dayrit said the low rate of iodine use in Filipino households was "a potential disaster to our nation."

"You can see the damage this is doing to our children. This means that our children have 10 to 15 percent IQ (intelligence quotient) points less be-

cause they are not taking iodized salt," he said.

To explain the significance of iodine to humans, Dayrit compared the human body to a communications network, with iodine improving the connections between "cell sites."

"The iodine makes our brains function efficiently by interconnecting the different parts of the nervous system. That's why we have children who are quick and fast learners," he said.

With improved interconnections in the nervous system, IQ improves by 10 to 15 percent.

Alvarez wants \$50M b-day gift

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez badly wants a gift for his birthday tomorrow, and it's worth \$50 million.

Alvarez leaves today for Beijing to secure for the Philippines some \$50 million in funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) whose council representing 32 member countries will be meeting until the weekend.

The Philippines is seeking GEF funding for forest and watershed rehabilitation to cost \$25 million and another \$25 million for coastal resources and biodiversity conservation.

The GEF is a grants-funding body for developing-country projects that address four critical threats to the environment—biodiversity loss, climate change, degradation of international waters, ozone depletion, and now, land degradation and persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

It is funded by a \$4-billion trust fund pledged by member nations. GEF programs are jointly implemented by the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Environment Program and the World Bank. Gerald G. Lacuarta

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Education Revolution

LAST week civil society decided to do something about one of the major problems of the country. The Foundation of Worldwide People Power launched what it called an Education Revolution. The idea is simply itself: adopt a school to help solve the country's crisis in education.

Eugenia (Eggie) D. Apostol, founding president of the foundation, said that the adopting group would be able to work harmoniously with the barangay officials, parent-teachers associations and civic and religious groups in the community. This way, the group could take a wholistic approach to the problems encountered in running a school.

The foundation will start by addressing the basic needs of the public elementary school system. The adopting group will talk with the principal and teachers of the adopted school to find out their needs. It will also talk with the parent-teachers association and community leaders to plan ways of helping the school.

It will use People Power to get local officials to give more attention to the school. It will ask residents and businessmen to support a school feeding program or donate textbooks and school supplies. It will also write to the governor, representatives and senators to seek their help.

The educational system has many problems, but perhaps the foundation could concentrate on some of the major ones. These include (1) quality of education, (2) accessibility of education, (3) educational infrastructure and equipment and (5) malnutrition of school children.

It is recognized that there has been a general decline in the quality of education, especially in the elementary and high school levels. The results of standard tests conducted among elementary and high school students are way below the target mean score of 75 percent. One way of improving education in the public schools would be to employ competent teachers and to improve the skills of the present crop of teachers.

The foundation's Mentoring the Mentors Program could help in this effort. The program seeks to empower teachers as agents of change by developing their teaching skills and briefing them on the concept of Education for Social Transformation.

The problem of accessibility of education accounts for the disparity in educational achievements across social groups. The dropout rate is higher among poor students, especially in the elementary level. Education has to be made accessible to all and some system has to be devised to make sure that students do not drop out of school on account of poverty.

Poor infrastructure is a perennial problem in the public school system. Every year there is a shortage of classrooms and some teachers are forced to hold classes under the trees or in the open air. The foundation could help solve this problem by getting donors to contribute funds for the repair of buildings, the construction of school buildings and school libraries or science laboratories.

The Unesco has cited malnutrition due to poverty as one of the factors contributing to the problems of education. Malnutrition, which is especially prevalent in the rural areas, causes lower intelligence quotients (IQ), poor school attendance and shorter attention spans, making the affected children more prone to repeat grades or to drop out of school altogether. A donor can fund a school feeding program that will ensure that an entire class will get nutritious food for 120 class days.

The problem of poverty and education is a vicious cycle. Poor parents cannot send their children to school because they are poor. Poor students drop out of school because they cannot pay for their school needs. Schools in poor communities cannot improve their teaching because they lack funds for the improvement of teachers' teaching skills, the upgrading of infrastructure and the purchase of teaching aids. The foundation's program would help break this vicious cycle.

Like Rizal, the Foundation for Worldwide People Power is convinced that education is the best weapon against poverty. Unlike other organizations which just talk a problem to death, it is doing something concrete about the problem. But it cannot solve the problem by itself. It needs donors and volunteers to help it carry out the solution. This is one worthy project; we urge all who are concerned about the future of our country to contribute funds or work-days toward its realization.



The solution to Metro's traffic problem

THE TRAFFIC problem in Metro Manila will never be solved, not with color-coding or with anything else. Traffic discipline will only improve things a little but traffic congestion will remain. The problem is that there are too many vehicles in too few roads. And the number is increasing tremendously every year but too few roads are being built.

Think of the thousands of new vehicles being churned out by the car manufacturers every year plus those being imported second-hand. In other countries, old vehicles are phased out almost as fast as new ones are manufactured.

But in the Philippines, each vehicle that joins the multitude already there stays there almost forever. Credit it or blame it on Filipino knowhow—they can patch, paint and tinker with a vehicle and keep it running until the owner gets tired of it and sells it. But very few ever get to the vehicle graveyard. Thus, our vehicles keep getting more numerous every day. You see the result in the bumper-to-bumper traffic choking the streets during the day and in the vehicles parked along most roads at night, even in the exclusive subdivisions of the rich. They burst out of the garages.

But even in the poorer neighborhood, where you'd least expect it, you see lines of battered vehicles doubled-parked on both sides of even narrow streets. What this means is that less road surface is left for the use of moving vehicles and more and more of it is being used up by parked vehicles without garages. In Japan, this problem was remedied by requiring vehicle buyers to produce titles to garages. Without it, no trader will sell you a vehicle. In New York, fines for vehicles parked outside overnight are so steep, and fees in commercial parking buildings are also steep, that most New Yorkers abandoned vehicle ownership and used public transportation: buses, cabs, trains and the subway. We should have similar laws in Metro Manila but don't. Reason: We don't have an efficient public

As I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



transportation system.

We have topsy-turvy policies. We have monopolies and oligopolies in industries where there should be free enterprise, such as oil, cement and drugs. But we have free enterprise where there should be government monopoly, such as public transportation.

In all cities with efficient public transportation, it is the government itself that runs all the public transport systems. This is so that schedules are regulated and coordinated and passengers can change coaches and line without changing tickets. In the Philippines, any Juan, Pedro and Jose with credit can buy a bus, jeepney, or tricycle and operate his own transportation line. Result: the chaos that we have now in our streets.

But there are 14 million inhabitants in Metro Manila; how do you move them around without vehicles? Through an efficient public transportation system run, or at least fully controlled, by the government. We should have had a subway system a long time ago. But because of the shallow water table and frequent floods, this is impractical. So what we are doing is building elevated rail lines which are so expensive.

Meanwhile we already have ground level rail lines but is not improving or expanding them to serve more people. We also have the waterways in Metro Manila and Manila Bay and Laguna Lake that used to serve our forefathers as transportation routes until we were seduced by the internal combustion engine. These and the railroad can take some of the load off our few roads but the government is

not doing enough to use them. A private company tried to put up a ferry service along the Pasig River but failed because it is used the wrong, because cheap, boat for the service.

We have already seen how efficient the elevated rail lines can be.

The Light Rail Transit from Monumento to Baclaran along Rizal and Taft Avenues serves 350,000 passengers daily. The Metro Star from North Avenue to Baclaran along Edsa serves 300,000 passengers daily. This line will soon be extended to Monumento to connect with LRT and make a complete loop. A line along Aurora and Sta. Mesa Boulevards to Recto and Divisoria is now under construction. The southern line is planned to be extended along Commonwealth Avenue to Tala and Bulacan.

This last, called MRT 7, (because it is the seventh line), was proposed in 2001 by the Universal LRT Corp. which is a consortium of international corporations. Members of the group initiated and implemented the first LRT line in the 1980s and participated in the construction of MRT 3 along Edsa.

MRT 7 is a combination elevated rail and road system to serve the 2 million population of North Quezon City and North Caloocan. The elevated rail will run from Quezon Avenue, where it will connect with MRT 3, along Commonwealth, past Fairview and the La Mesa reservation to Tala, where a new access road to the North Luzon Expressway in Marilao will be built.

It aims to dramatically reduce the number of provincial buses going into the city proper. If we don't do something about it, it is estimated that 12,000 buses will soon enter Metro Manila from the north. Another 11,000 will come from the south and 1,800 will come from the west. Where you will put all those huge lumbering buses in the few narrow streets in the metropolis? We need LRT lines to take their passengers from the outskirts to the city proper.

'Losers'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



It is not only the youth of course that harbors this idealism, but it is the youth that has it in its purest, most incandescent, form. It is only the youth as a general category that has the monumental capacity to be altruistic, to be magnanimous, to not think of self first and last. "Ang mamatay nang dahil sa iyo" is the vow we make every time we sing the National Anthem. Unfortunately, only the youth probably means it, or can live up to—or die up to—it.

That is the one thing I would beg you to cling to with the passion of a lover, or the desperation of a drowning man. Because it is also true, as the priest in our school said, that that idealism can go like romance in the moonlight that wilts with the sun, the first casualty in what is unhappily called "growing up." There are many pitfalls along the way. In this country more than others, those pitfalls are everywhere waiting to waylay you.

Chief of them is the criteria of success this society will inexorably impose on you. Criteria that have to do with how much wealth and power you have accumulated. You have neither, you will be judged a failure.

Easy to say at this point that you are not going to care about that judgment, you will never live your life the way others want you to. Not so very easy when you graduate and come home to Christmas reunions, and family gatherings, and get to be compared by hint and innuendo to the cousin who is doing so well as a young official of a bank or the brain trust of a prominent, but corrupt, politician. And who now sports a new car, which is parked right outside the gate in all its gleaming glory. Then will your true merit be tested.

Slowly, unwittingly, unconsciously, you could start yielding to the pressures of what passes for the "real world." What is terrifying about it is that you are never really aware that it is hap-

pening at all. That is so because the bargain is never really Faustian, with the devil offering you all the joys of the seven cardinal sins in exchange for your soul. It is invariably Lilliputian, decisions now and then about bending the rules to help kin or friend, exceptions now and then because of a *ninong's* pakiusap.

It's not the big capitulation you have to fear, it's the small concessions. Those are what really tell, or take their toll, on you. The blurring of vision here and there that leads to blindness, the deafness to entreaty here and there that leads to callousness, the suspension of conscience here and there that leads to the deadening of the soul. It's the daily, steady, incessant accumulation of all this that turns you into the thing you once fought against. And you don't even notice it.

There is another word for naïve, or innocent, or unrealistic that you will constantly encounter if you should, by an exercise of will or fortitude, or vigilance, decide to stand fast by the unclouded conscience of your youth, by the blinding light of the first flush of your life. It is the word "loser." The word will probably never be expressly used, but it will be the subtext of the attitude shown toward you by the community you will find yourself in. It will lurk like a snake in the tall grass underneath the faint praise that will be showered upon you for choosing a different path, for taking a low-profile job that serves the people rather than a high-powered one that serves yourself.

In fact, you can live a grand and heroic life by living a simple and honest one. You can live a full and vibrant life by living an obscure and impoverished one. The day you espy the luminous purity of that truth is the day you cling to your youthful passions with the constancy of a love-struck heart. The day you glimpse the dazzling heroism of that truth is the day you unlock the secrets of dreams with the sureness of a conjurer's hand. The day you see through the incandescent fury of that truth is the day you get the point about life, amid its false leads and subterfuges.

Sometimes, losers are the biggest winners of all.

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Abrogation of extradition treaty with United States

THE DEBATE over the extradition of Mark Jimenez introduces us to an emerging phenomenon called "legal relativism." What is viewed as constitutional by the judiciary may not be viewed as such by the legislature, and vice versa. Insofar as the Executive

Branch is concerned, it will strain RP's diplomatic relation with the US until the brewing legal question is resolved.

There is no need to amend the extradition treaty. Our government should simply abrogate it. For the Jimenez case has driven a wedge between the

justices and the politicians, has elicited more legal arguments than even lawyers can understand, and has shown our feudalistic political culture.

—PRIMER C. PAGUNURAN
Rosal Street, Saarlant II
Antipolo City

Insisting on the SSS' magical accounting system

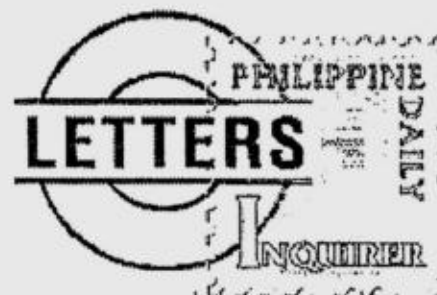
WE were amused by the reaction of Ms. Corazon dela Paz, SSS president and CEO, to the "accounting sleight of hand" report by the Inquirer (9/18/02) which was based on an interview with us by PDI business reporter Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Ms. Dela Paz conveniently omitted to mention the part of section 22 of SFAS No. 10 which SSS violated. She construed the deduction of an expense directly from income as allowed by section 25 of RA 8282, though not explicitly, because the expense was not included in the example of operational expenses subject to statutory cap. It's like a housewife filching from her husband's pay envelope for her mahjong losses which are not included in the approved sample of household expenses.

What Ms. Dela Paz did not say was that Section 22 of SFAS No. 10 additionally provides that "This treatment (of allowance for market decline of non-current investments) is different from the accounting procedures used in recording and reporting declines in the current portfolios, where such declines are recognized as current losses and shown in the income statement."

Clearly, it does not allow deduction from the investment income account of probable losses in current portfolios, which they did, but requires recognizing them as current losses and showing them in the income and expense statement, which they did not.

What Ms. Dela Paz also did not mention in her reaction, but admitted to us in writing when we questioned it, was their offsetting of the allowance of P6.56 billion for probable losses in interest receivable of P8.03 billion as of 12/3/102 against the allowance for probable losses in non-current investment of P6.14 billion and the difference of P420 million was directly deducted from interest income. Both allowances have thus disappeared and interest income was misstated. One does not have to be a CPA to see through the magical accounting system of the SSS.



While we are at it, the allowance for probable losses in non-current investments almost doubled from P6.14 billion in 2000 to P11.48 billion in 2001, indicating the worsening market situation but no loss in investments has been recognized. A big chunk of the investments has been found to be dormant and virtually worthless but are still carried in the books. It looks to us like Ms. Dela Paz does not want to touch what she inherited with a 10-foot pole.

Nor do we in PARP see any effort on the part of the SSS to recover the losses, or punish the people responsible, including those who staged an illegal strike.

The situation in the SSS today, we think, is more dangerous than during Estrada's time, because the management is afraid to rake up and dispose of its problems, the same elements are still around and are reportedly planning on an investment binge again, the employees have become ferocious with support of you-know-who, and only the SSS members are left to fend for themselves, only by themselves.

PARP, representing the owners of the money of the SSS, has taken the initiative and the cudgels for SSS members. Because we believe in the rule of law and we are committed to promote and protect the interest of all SSS members, retired and active.

—AMADO F. CABAERO,
national president,
Philippine Association of Retired Persons
(PARP), 1 Sterling Ave.,
Sterling Homes,
Las Piñas City

NOTICE OF SPECIAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

OF WILLIAM, GOTHONG & ABOITIZ, INC.

Notice is hereby given that a Special Stockholders Meeting of WILLIAM, GOTHONG & ABOITIZ, INC. will be held on Monday, 11 November 2002, 5:00 p.m. at the Cebu Country Club, Banilad, Cebu City.

Agenda of the meeting are as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Quorum
3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Stockholders
4. Ratification of the resolutions of the Board of Directors approved at its October 1, 2002 meeting of the following matters:
 - a. Declaration of stock dividend (in the form of redeemable preferred shares approved by the SEC on March 13, 2002);
 - b. Fixing December 6, 2002 as the record date for the purpose of determining who are entitled to receive the stock dividend; and
 - c. Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation for the Change of the Corporation's Name
5. Adjournment

The Board of Directors has fixed October 11, 2002 (as of the close of business of such date) as the record date for purposes of determining the stockholders who are entitled to notice and to vote at the aforementioned annual stockholders' meeting.

When registering your attendance at the aforementioned stockholders' meeting, please present any form of identification, such as Company I.D., passport, or driver's license.

Makati City, 01 October, 2002.

Helen Tiu
Helen Tiu
Corporate Secretary

For inquiries regarding change of address and account status, please write or call:

Bank of the Philippine Islands
Stock Transfer Agency
4th Floor, BPI Head Office Bldg.
Ayala Ave. corner Paseo de Roxas Ave.
1200 Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 816-9067 to 68
Fax No.: 845-5515



'Trabaho'

THE ASIAN Wall Street Journal recently carried an article by Cynthia Crossen about the last US census recognizing some 31,000 occupations, compared to 322 when the first census was conducted in 1850.

The listings of occupations through the last 150 years, Crossen notes, shows the transformation of the American economy, mainly from an agrarian society in the middle of the 19th century to an industrial economy in the 20th and, today, to a service society.

Occupations come and go. Gone are the slubber doofers, people who removed bobbins from spindles in textile mills. Gone, too, are the rancheros, the livery stable-keeper, the umbrella menders and newspaper criers and the times ironer, that last occupation referring to the servant responsible for ironing the daily newspaper.

Some names change as the occupations evolve. People who flew planes were first called aeronauts in the 1910 census and classified under a broader category of "showmen." Only in 1920 did "aviator" become a separate occupation. Airline stewardesses, on the other hand, first appeared as a title in 1940, originally classified as nurses because at that time they had to be medically trained, an excellent idea when you think about it.

The latest major transformation of the US economy has been an explosion of professional, technical and service jobs, accompanied by a decrease in jobs involving production and administrative support.

The trend has been toward specialization. In the 1860 census, "teachers and scientific persons" constituted one occupation. Today, that's broken down to all kinds of specialized occupations including bryologists (moss specialists) and mycologists (fungi specialists) to teachers of viticulture (the cultivation of grapes).

Our computer age has also spawned many occupations—more than 50 of the listed job titles in the United States begin with the word "computer." Note though that the term "computer programmer" was first used back in 1960, even earlier than "political scientist," which came to be used only in 1970. (Curiously, "psychologist" appeared as early as 1920, and economist in 1930.)

I didn't have time to look at our own statistics for occupations but I'm sure such numbers, as well as other archival material, can make good research material. Look up Ma. Luisa Camagay's wonderful book "Working Women of Manila in the 19th century" to learn about the *cigarreras* (women cigar makers), the *vendadoras* and *tenderas* (vendors), *bordadoras* (embroiderers) and *costureras* (seamstresses), the *criadas* (domestic servants), the *maestras* (teachers), the *matronas titulares* (graduates of midwifery schools) and the *mujeres publicas* (public women, literally and figuratively).

Reading Camagay's book you'll find references to other occupations in the 19th century. Cigar factories, for examples, had a *capatas* inspector (foreman), a *cabo de cuadrilla* (head of a team of workers), *faginites* (stevedores), *celadoras* (caretakers), *porteras* (porters), *bastagueras* (sorters of tobacco), *cabecillas de mesa* (heads of working tables) and *cortadores* (cutters).

I've wondered about what our most com-

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

mon occupations are today. I did a quick review of Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) figures and found that among the professions requiring a license, the largest numbers, and I'm talking here about cumulative figures from 1982 to 1996, were for nursing (177,690), midwives (75,986), civil engineers (51,335), accounting (44,067) and electrical engineering (38,965).

Those figures probably pale in comparison with other occupations. I've read that we have something like 450,000 registered security guards, and 250,000 seafarers plying the world's oceans.

I'd be interested in knowing how many jeepney and bicycle drivers we have. Domestic helpers would be another large category. And the other day, while getting a haircut my barber Nong told me they (the Ricky Reyes chain) were having a huge hairdressers' competition the next day, with more than a thousand contestants. Note that these were already semi-finalists.

I'd be curious too about the numbers of people working at odd jobs like that of the barker, the people who call for passengers to load into jeepneys, FX's and tricycles. I'm also thinking of the movie "Lagarista," about people who bike from one theater to another to deliver spools of film. That occupation is said to be disappearing.

We also have our share of emerging occupations. These days, you can take up a one-month course to become a cellphone technician, doing everything from repairing the phones to loading new ringtones to adding flashy backlights. Invest a few more months, and a few more thousand pesos, to take a caregiver course and you might be able to find a job overseas.

Sadly, vices seem to have produced quite a few occupational niches, from the *kristo* in cockfighting (so-called because their arms are stretched out, like a crucified Christ, as they take bets) to the *jueteng cabo*. Gone are the *mujeres publicas* but today we have range of new euphemisms from escorts to Guest Relations Officers (GROs).

In some ways the emergence of rather odd job titles reflects a free enterprise economy, where people can invent and reinvent themselves. Occupations still listed in the United States include weight guessers, snake charmers, clairvoyants, fortune tellers, gigolos and pimps.

In a Third World setting though, such as the Philippines, the many odd jobs reflect a lack of jobs, with people desperately carving out all kinds of occupational niches to earn a few extra pesos. Note, too, that in a Third World setting people may end up doing different jobs to survive, teachers may end up as insurance sales agents and tocino dealers. Who is to complain as long as it's honest work. *Trabaho* is *trabaho*.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Megawati pressured to fight terror

JAKARTA—Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri came under mounting pressure at home and abroad to clamp down on terrorism in the wake of the devastating Bali bombing as stocks and the rupiah plummeted Monday.

"What is needed is that she shows some concrete agenda, some focus," said Afan Gaffar of the state Gajah Mada University in Yogyakarta.

Gaffar said that despite repeated warnings from friendly neighboring countries, the government had failed to anticipate the threat or even acknowledge it.

"It is a question of leadership, a question of fundamental trust in a leader that is at stake," Gaffar said.

He called for the government to instill some long overdue order into its intelligence agencies. Many, including Vice President Hamzah Haz, have blamed the agencies for failing to anticipate the attack.

Indonesian newspapers on Monday said the Bali blast, which killed 190 people and injured over 300, was a wake-up call for the government which had refused to take seriously warnings

about a terrorist presence in the country.

They said unless the government apprehended those responsible the country's reputation and its ailing economy would sink lower.

Hendardi, of the Indonesian Association for Legal Aid and Human Rights, called for firm action from Megawati but also warned the government against crossing the line into what he called state terrorism.

Calls for Jakarta to crack down on terrorism also came from overseas with US President George W. Bush offering to help Indonesia "bring these murderers to justice."

Australian Prime Minister John Howard told parliament he was sending Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, Justice Minister Chris Ellison and top security officials for urgent talks with their Indonesian counterparts.

"Their mission will be to maximize cooperation between Australia and Indonesia in pursuit of

the murderers," Howard said.

Australian officials expressed frustration that the government in Jakarta had been unwilling or unable to clamp down on Islamic militant groups, notably one called Jemaah Islamiyah which has suspected links to the al-Qaida network.

"We have a right and I have a duty to push upon and press upon the Indonesian government the need for a cooperative effort in the region (against terrorism)," Howard said.

The EU's Danish presidency urged the "Indonesian authorities to spare no efforts in finding and bringing to justice the perpetrators."

The normally low-profile Megawati quickly issued a strong condemnation of the bombing and flew to Bali to visit the scene of the blast and the wounded in hospital.

Pande Raja Silalahi of the Center for Strategic and International Studies said that so far she was sending the right signals.

Top security minister Bambang Susilo Yudhoyono said the blast was a "turning point" and the government would take firm action against any terrorist activity. *AFP*



INDONESIAN President Megawati Sukarnoputri talks to Coordinating Minister for Politics and Security Affairs Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono during a Cabinet meeting in Jakarta on Oct. 14. *AFP*

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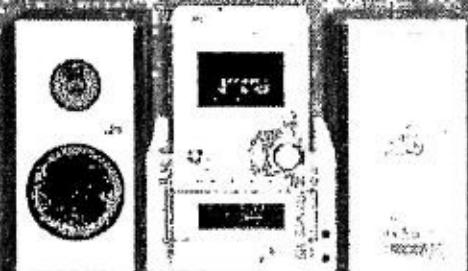
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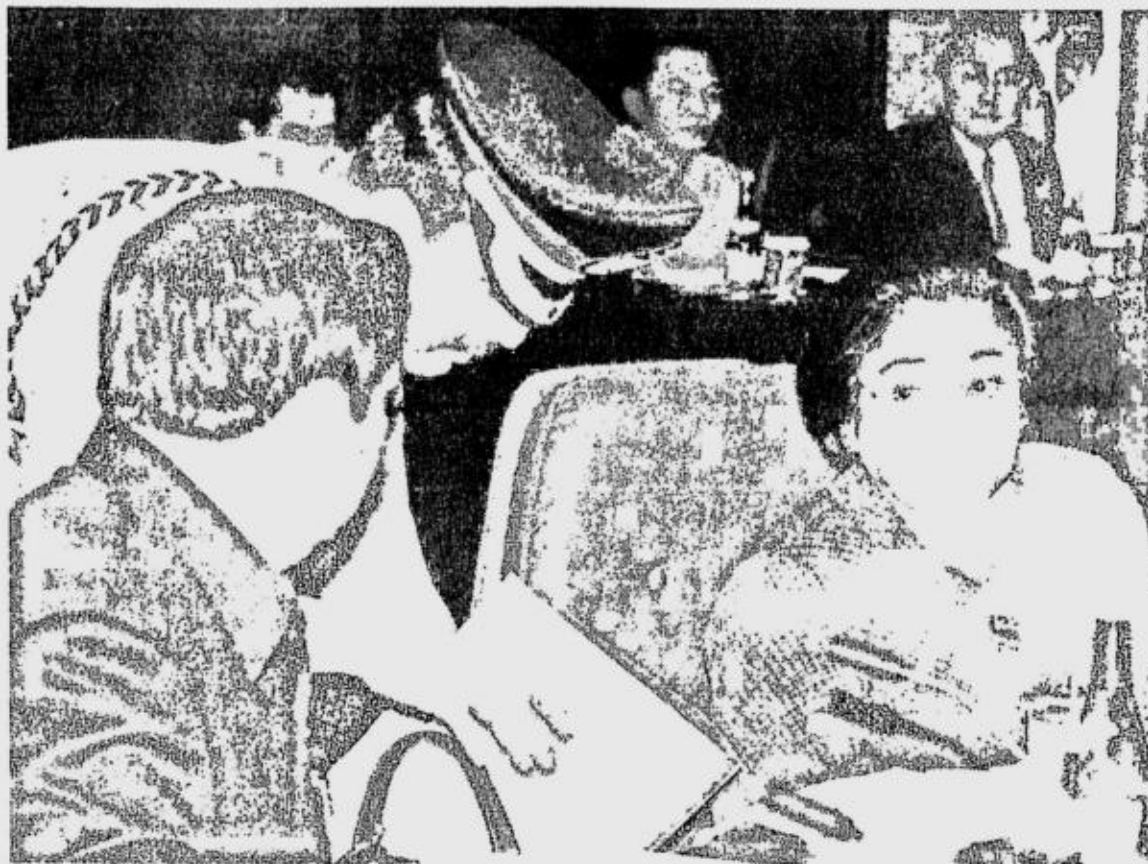
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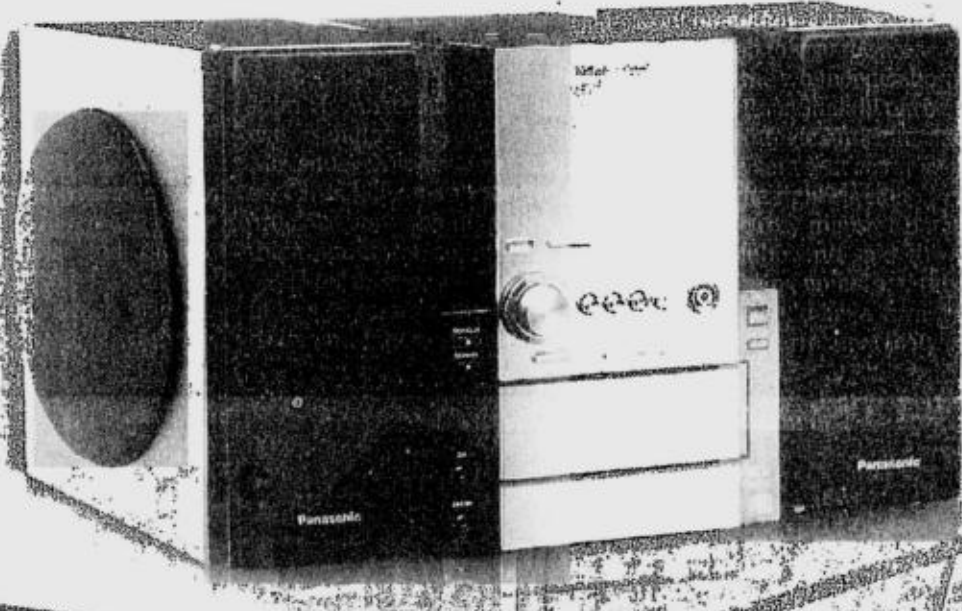
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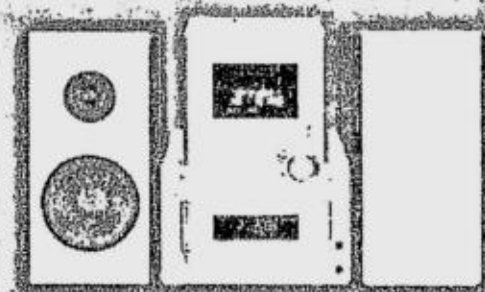
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SEE STANDEE FOR PROMO DETAILS. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1753 Series of 2002

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Indons mourn paradise lost

BALI, Indonesia—The artists and wood carvers, temple dancers and rice farmers, the hawkers, barmen, hotel waiters and taxi drivers—every soul on this island, it seems, is in mourning for a paradise lost.

So is much of Indonesia.

For while the rest of this vast Muslim nation has been convulsed by violence through much of its modern history, Hindu Bali has existed as an enchanted island of calm.

And if Bali is no longer safe, nowhere is safe.

"It's heartbreaking, I feel so sad," said Ronny Eliman, a 26-year-old advertising agency executive in Jakarta, dashing to work on Monday after the weekend bomb attacks in Bali that killed 190 people, most of them young foreigners, in a strip of bars.

"Bali was the safest place in Indonesia—the one place we called the island of paradise," he said.

The residents of Jakarta, like those of New York after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, spoke of fear and profound sadness, vulnerability and a sense that life had permanently changed.

"It scares me, more and more attacks occurred randomly across Indonesia. Indonesia has suffered enough from economy crisis and now terror threats," said Nia, 20, as she tended a cash register at a Fuji film shop.

Cindy Robertha, a 26-year-old university graduate, was anxious. Indonesia was pulling out of a deep slump following the 1997 Asian financial crisis, and the future for young job-seekers was looking brighter.

Now, she said: "I think this

country is tumbling down. I don't feel safe any more."

For some, fear had turned to anger, and demands that Indonesian authorities—criticized for complacency toward Islamic militants by other Asian governments—bring the perpetrators to justice.

"I am shocked," said shopowner Jacky Susanto. "We want to know who is responsible behind this evil act. I urge the police to take immediate actions."

On Bali itself, near the site of the car bomb explosion along Kuta Beach, shopkeepers were sweeping up broken glass and tidying their shelves, trying to restore a modicum of order to a shattered world.

Made Lata Suvawa, 26, a restaurant waiter, stretched back as far in time as he could go to put into perspective the impact of the blasts.

"Since World War II, there has never been a serious problem for tourists on Bali," he said. "Now we have been hit very hard. I am worried that more bombs will follow, that foreign countries will tell their people not to come here."

Clutching his 3-year-old daughter, Agus Suhendar, a worker at the Hard Rock Café, was among a crowd straining for a view of the devastated bars and nightclubs behind a cordon.

"Until now, Bali has been the safest part of Indonesia, and now this has happened to us," he said.

Nearby, Ali Murdin, who came to the island 40 years ago from neighboring Java, sighed: "I've always felt happy here. Bali has been good to me. But now I'm really worried."

Reuters



BALINESE people prepare coffins for the victims of Saturday night's bombing.

Fear grips SEA tourism industry

BANGKOK—Southeast Asia's tourism industry, already reeling from terrorism, kidnappings and the aftermath of Sept. 11, will be badly damaged by the Bali bomb blasts, analysts said Monday.

Industry experts said the attack would particularly rout Indonesia's tourism sector.

"It burst one of the big bubbles, the myth that has infused the industry over the past couple of years, that certain destinations—by dint of their cultural and ethnic camaraderie—will not have these things happen," said Imtiaz Muqbil from the Bangkok-based Travel Impact Newswire.

However, predominantly Buddhist Thailand is hoping that it can preserve its reputation as a safe haven and prevent massive cancellations which would devastate the tourism sector as it heads into the end-of-year high season.

"Obviously in the short term this is going to have a negative impact on tourist arrivals all over Southeast Asia," said SG Securities head of research for Asia, Sriyan Pietersz.

"But beyond that potentially we could see Thailand benefiting because it has the least potential for major violence unlike say in

the southern Philippines or Indonesia. Travellers obviously are going to be a little bit wary of Malaysia as well."

Regional tourism operators and hoteliers have only just recovered from the impact of the attacks on New York and Washington which prompted across-the-board cancellations.

Analysts said that any further violent incidents, or conclusive findings that the Bali bomb was planned by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida movement and part of a nationwide terror campaign, could scare people away for good.

AFP

US preacher statements spark India riots; 10 dead

BOMBAY—Indian police on Monday said 10 people have died and over 140 injured in communal violence in western India over comments by US Baptist minister Jerry Falwell against Islam's Prophet Mohammed.

"One more person succumbed to injury taking the death toll to 10," said a police spokesperson from Solapur.

"However, there has been no fresh incident of violence reported since last night. The situation continues to be tense, but under control and the curfew has been extended till 6 p.m. Monday."

Solapur, a city of more than one million people some 600 km west of India's financial capital Bombay, was hit by sectarian violence since Friday after Muslim youths protested Falwell's branding of Mohammed as "a terrorist." Muslim groups had called a strike on Friday, which turned violent when the Muslim crowd clashed with Hindu groups.

Falwell, a conservative known for his rabble-rousing remarks, on Saturday apologized for his remarks.

The Bharatiya Janata Party, meanwhile, has called for a high-level probe into the riots.

"Why was there a reaction to Falwell's statement only in Maharashtra and not anywhere in the world?" said BJP spokesperson Prakash Jawdekar. "This has to be probed."

Earlier Sunday India's Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani also criticized Falwell's explosive remarks without mentioning him by name.

AFP

Rockets fired at 3 US bases in Afghanistan

BAGRAM, Afghanistan—Three US bases were attacked with gunfire and rockets in eastern Afghanistan over the weekend, the US military said Monday. There were no injuries.

Helicopter pilots spotted tracer fire at an outpost near Lawara, 175 km southwest of Kabul, while they were landing and taking off Saturday night, said Air Force Maj. Steve Clutter, deputy spokesperson for the US military in Afghanistan.

A patrol later discovered a rocket launcher aimed at the base, Clutter said. A demolition team destroyed the rocket.

Also Saturday night, two 107mm rockets exploded 500 meters and 800 meters from a US base near Khost. A platoon sent to find the launch site found a mortar and seized it.

Three rockets were launched Saturday at a base near Gardez but landed far from their target, Clutter said. A helicopter also reported seeing tracer fire.

Tracers are glowing projectiles fired along with bullets to help gunmen aim their fire.

Attackers typically use timers

or remote control to launch rockets at US bases in Afghanistan, and troops rarely find the people responsible.

"Unfortunately, we haven't been able to engage the enemy directly," Clutter said. "The enemy has been pretty stealthy; they don't come out and show themselves."

Some timers are as simple as a punctured water can filled with water. As the water runs out, it completes an electrical circuit and launches the rocket.

Clutter said he did not believe the three attacks heralded a resurgence of the Taliban or al-Qaida.

"This happens quite a bit. We're always concerned when there are bad guys out there shooting at our soldiers, but it is a sign that they know we're there and they know we're being effective," he said.

Also Monday, US military officials denied a claim by Afghan officials that a US helicopter crashed while trying to land in the eastern province of Kunar. The area is one of several being combed by US forces for fugitive al-Qaida and Taliban men.

AP

Iraqis remember child martyrs of war

BAGHDAD—A young boy's voice shatters the silence in memory of Iraq's thousands of child "martyrs" of war. A powerful sound system carries his strident lament of a Muslim prayer through the gathering.

The poignancy of such tragic loss has been sharpened for Iraqi Children's Day this year by US President George W. Bush's repeated warning that Baghdad will be attacked and even invaded unless the regime stands down and disarms.

Iraq began to mark the day after an Iranian missile crashed into a primary school killing 34 children on Oct. 13, 1987, minutes after the morning school bell sounded.

The prospects of it happening again are almost too much to bear today at the monument to the little children who lost their lives in this dusty suburb on the southwestern edge of Baghdad.

"We are the children of Iraq and we dream like other children of the world," pleaded Ziyad Tareq.

The boy read out a poem in English with a perfect American accent, describing how Iraqi children only want what other youngsters around the world

want: their toys, their families and their lives.

He then lit candles to the dead in the auditorium of the new school built on the ruins of the disaster from the Iran-Iraq conflagration.

The moment lost little of its emotion to the careful stage managing and the shipping in of scores of journalists from the world's press drawn to Baghdad by the war threats and Tuesday's referendum to reelect President Saddam Hussein for another seven years in office.

The Bilal al-Shuhadaa school was rebuilt on Saddam's orders, and while the West blames him for bringing war to his people, the classrooms and entrance which lie beneath the monument seem as much a tribute to the Iraqi strongman as to the lost lives.

Each class is adorned with pictures and paintings of Saddam as is an exhibition of drawings of the missile attack.

Outside in the heat, scores of pupils line the path to the bleak stone monument on which figures of children cast in black metal ascend to heaven as angels, die in the rubble or heroically support the Iraqi flag.

AFP

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4088 Series of 2002

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Mass food poisoner executed

BEIJING—A snack shop owner was executed Monday in China's eastern city of Nanjing after being found guilty of killing 42 people by lacing a competitor's food with rat poison, state media said. Chen Zhenping, who was ar-

rested one month ago, was put to death after the Higher People's Court of Jiangsu province upheld a previous death sentence meted out late last month, the China News Service reported. "The facts are clear, the evi-

dence is reliable and ample, and the punishment is suitable," the court said, confirming the original sentence by the Nanjing Intermediate People's Court. Chen was arrested on Sept. 14,

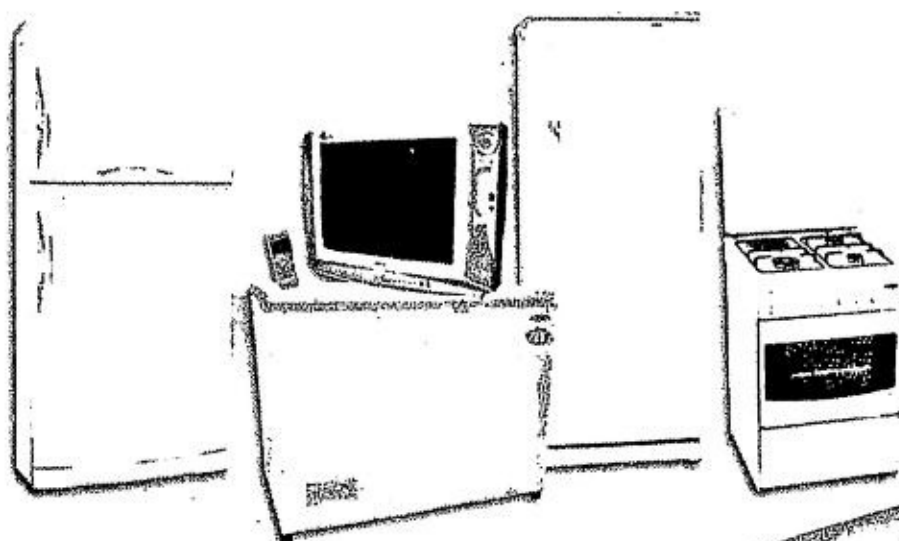
a day after hundreds of people fell ill from eating breakfast snacks bought from a shop in Tangshan township in Nanjing city, state media reports at the time said. Chen, who owned another

snack shop in Tangshan, reportedly confessed to the crime, saying he poisoned fried dough sticks, sesame cakes and glutinous rice prepared by the Zhengwu Pastry Bar because he was jealous of the shop's success. AFP

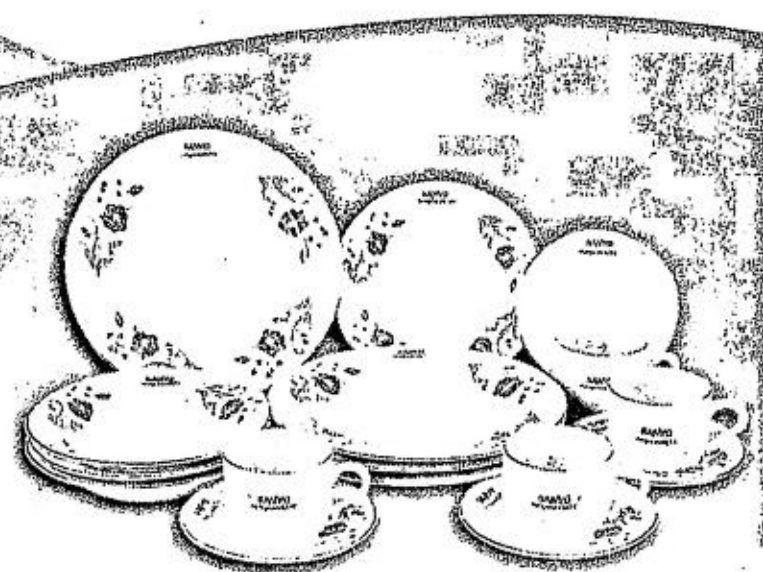


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Promo Period: October 15, 2002 to January 15, 2003

Coverage: Nationwide, divided into the following zones: Northeast Luzon, Northwest Luzon, Central Luzon, North Metro, Central Metro, South Metro, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, Cebu/Bohol, Western Visayas (except Iloilo & Guimaras provinces), Samar/Leyte North Mindanao and South Mindanao

Prizes per zone:
1st monthly draw:
Three (3) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for end users
Three (3) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for Shellane retail outlets

2nd monthly draw:
Three (3) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for end users
Three (3) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for Shellane retail outlets

3rd monthly draw:
Three (3) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for end users
Three (3) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for Shellane retail outlets

Four (4) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for end users
Four (4) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for Shellane retail outlets

Promo Mechanics:
Open to anyone who purchases Shellane LPG whether for a refill, a cylinder purchase, cylinder swap or Shellane stove promo purchase.

Purchase can be from any authorized Shellane retail outlet, distributor showroom, direct sales team/hit team or through Shellane Home Delivery.
Raffle ticket allocation is as follows:
Every purchase of 11 kg. refill - 1 raffle coupon
Every cylinder swap - 1 raffle coupon
Every purchase of 11 kg. cylinder w/ refill - 2 raffle coupons
Every purchase of stove, promo package - 4 raffle coupons

Customer shall fill out the raffle coupon with Name, Address, Tel. #, Name and Address of Shellane Retail Outlet and Signature.
Drop raffle coupon(s) in drop boxes located at all authorized Shellane distributor showrooms and retail outlets.

A winner can win only once per draw. All non-winning coupons per draw will be automatically included in the succeeding draws.

The Shellane retail outlet indicated on the winning coupon will receive the same prize as the end user. If in case the source of purchase is a Shellane distributor showroom, direct sales team/hit team or Home Delivery/Home Delivery, another ticket will be drawn until a winning retailer is determined. This extra draw will be done after all the end user prizes have been awarded; the end user owner of the original ticket drawn stays on as a prize winner.

There will be three monthly draws:

Monthly Draws:
First: November 29, 2002
Second: January 10, 2003
Third: January 30, 2003

Monthly Draws:
First: November 15, 2002
Second: December 26, 2002
Third: January 15, 2003

The raffle draws will be held in the following locations:
Northeast Luzon - PSPC San Fernando LPG Depot, Mac Arthur Highway, Brgy. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga
Northwest Luzon - PSPC Rabon LPG Depot, Rabon, Rosario, La Union
Central Luzon - PSPC San Fernando LPG Depot, Mac Arthur Highway, Brgy. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga

North Metro - PSPC Valenzuela LPG Depot, Tatalon St., Barrio Ugong, Valenzuela, Metro Manila
Central Metro - PSPC Pandacan Installation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
South Metro - PSPC Pandacan Installation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
Southern Tagalog - PSPC Alaminos LPG Depot, Km. 71, Maharlika Highway, Brgy. San Juan, Alaminos, Laguna

Bicol - PSPC Pamplona LPG Depot, National Highway, Pamplona, Camarines Sur
Cebu/Bohol - PSPC Cebu Regional Sales Office, Unit 901, Keppel Center, Cardinal Rosales Ave. cor. Samar Loop, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
Western Visayas - PSPC Lapus Installation, La Paz, Iloilo City
Samar/Leyte - PSPC Anibang LPG Depot, Rawis, Anibang, Tacloban City
North Mindanao - PSPC Villavieja LPG Depot, PHIVIDEC Compound, Villavieja, Misamis Oriental

South Mindanao - PSPC Sasa Installation, Sasa, Cagayan, Davao City

Draws will be made in the presence of a DTI representative and Shellane officers.
Winners will be notified through registered mail.
Winners can claim their prize(s) from the nearest Shellane distributor showroom.
To claim prize(s), winners must present the registered notice together with the claim stub and at least one valid ID.
Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Philippine Shell Petroleum Corporation with prior approval of DTI.
All employees of Philippine Shell Petroleum Corporation, all Shellane distributors, the advertising agency including their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2310 Series of 2002



Australia bishop cleared of sex raps

SYDNEY—Australia's most senior Catholic leader was exonerated on Monday of allegations he sexually abused a 12-year-old boy in the early 1960s, clearing the way for him to resume his duties as archbishop of Sydney.

Archbishop George Pell said he was "grateful to God that this ordeal is over." He immediately ended a voluntary suspension from his position to lead a Mass in Sydney's St. Mary's Cathedral for people killed in a weekend bomb attack in Bali.

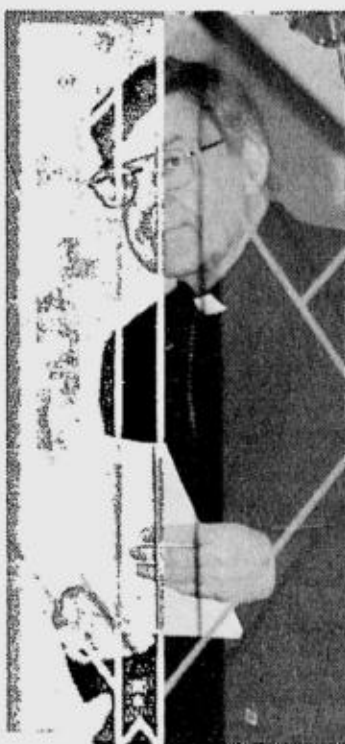
"When a person is under extreme pressure, personal values may crumble," Pell told reporters. "However, my Catholic

convictions sustained me during these dark weeks."

An internal Church inquiry, led by retired Judge Alex Southwell, found that allegations Pell had abused a boy when he was a trainee priest "could not be established."

The inquiry took testimony from 15 witnesses and received statements from another 17 people.

Like its counterpart in the United States, the Australian Catholic Church has faced several allegations of sexual abuse by members of its clergy in recent years, and the claims against its most senior figure was a sharp blow. *Reuters*



ARCHBISHOP George Pell AFP

Cops say they're close to catching US sniper

WASHINGTON—The sniper shooting drama that has gripped the Washington area appeared no closer to being solved Monday, as investigators continue to counsel the public that they are just one good tip away from cracking the case.

"People are continuing to give us information; we're following up those leads," said Charles Moose, police chief in Montgomery County Maryland, where five of the shootings occurred.

"We want people to keep the faith and remember this is certainly not the first person or group of people who tried to change us or change the nation. So please continue to be resilient," Moose

told reporters on Sunday.

The roving sniper killed eight and wounded two in an 11-day shooting spree. The last shooting occurred early Friday at a Virginia gas station.

Ballistics tests showed that each of the 10 victims were felled by a single shot from the same weapon—a 5.56-mm (.223-caliber) assault-type rifle.

In Alexandria, Virginia, a community group known as the Guardian Angels pumped gas for people afraid to get out of their cars. Four of the victims were shot at gas stations.

"People are absolutely afraid. The general consensus is they don't want to go to the suburbs to pump gas, they want to go to Metro DC where they feel safer because there's more traffic and less of a chance the sniper will strike there," said Arnold Salinas, a founder of the Guardian Angels, outside a filling station.

Over the weekend, Washingtonians avoided places they see as potentially risky, such as health clubs with glass windows, gas stations and playgrounds.

"I draw a lot from local people, and they just weren't coming," said Mary Kay Rick, head of Tour DC, a walking tour group. "It's even worse than it was after the Sept. 11 attacks. It's so random and so scary I think people are just hunkering down."

Local schools from Maryland to Virginia banned students from playing outside and cancelled field trips.

Fear of further shootings prompted organizers to cancel numerous outdoor events, including annual outdoor runs in Rockville, Maryland—the site of

one of the fatal shootings.

"If something happened, you couldn't defend it," said Rockville spokesperson Neil Greenberger.

According to him, fear has gripped officials and residents alike in this region around the US capital of more than five million inhabitants.

The reward for information leading to the arrest of the serial sniper has topped \$500,000, a bounty officials which has resulted in thousands of leads being phoned in to a police hotline about the case.

Meanwhile, the US defense department has been asked to review its records of rejected applicants and former enlistees with marksmanship skills, as police attempt to find the shooter in a series of deadly sniper attacks here, according to media reports.

According to news reports, the defense department also has been asked to search records from the sniper school at Fort Bragg in North Carolina for applicants and former students with psychological problems.

The shooter has felled all of his victims with a single bullet, leading investigators to speculate that he might have had military training as a marksman.

The suspect has also shown great skill in eluding authorities, shooting his victims from too remote a distance to be seen, and quickly escaping without a trace on area freeways.

Authorities released a drawing of a white, box-like truck with damage to a rear bumper seen near some of the shootings.

A second composite of a white; Chevy minivan also seen by witnesses speeding away from shooting sites would be released Monday, Moose said. *AFP*



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE

Quezon City

October 11, 2002

REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 16-2002

Subject : Modes of and Procedure for the Payment of Internal Revenue Taxes Through Authorized Agent Banks Amending Revenue Regulations No. 4-97, as amended by Revenue Regulations No. 6-98

To : All Internal Revenue Officers, Authorized Agent Banks, and Others Concerned

SECTION 1. SCOPE—Pursuant to Section 244 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 (CODE) in relation to Sections 8, 12, 56, 58, 81, 103, 114, 128, 130, 200 and 245, all of the same Code, these Regulations are hereby promulgated to amend Revenue Regulations No. 4-97, as amended by Revenue Regulations No. 6-98, on the provisions relative to acceptable modes of payment of internal revenue taxes through authorized agent banks (AABs), the recording of such payments and issuance of validated BIR-prescribed deposit slips which likewise serve as acknowledgement receipts for payments of taxes deposited by taxpayers for BTR-BIR account, and the control mechanisms to deter and detect the diversion of tax payments.

SEC. 2. RECORDING OF BIR TAX PAYMENTS BY THE AABs —

A) All internal revenue taxes collected through authorized agent banks (AABs) shall be credited to the demand deposit accounts opened and maintained by the Bureau of Treasury (BTR) for BIR in the head offices of AABs;

B) Head offices of AABs shall assign and maintain a separate general ledger account for said BTR demand deposit accounts;

C) Using the online teller system, the bank tellers shall immediately post the BIR tax payments they collect by crediting the BTR demand deposit accounts in the head offices of the AABs, instead of recording them as mere payables to BTR at the end of each banking day in the AABs' backrooms.

D) In filing a tax declaration and making payment to an AAB, a taxpayer must accomplish and submit a BIR-prescribed deposit slip which AAB's must design, print and make available in all participating branches. The deposit slip must in addition to those needed by the bank, provide for the following information:

- Transaction Date
- Name of Taxpayer
- TIN
- BTR-BIR Account Number
- Account Name which must be BTR-BIR
- Name of Drawee Bank
- Check Number
- Bank Debit Advice Number (for debit system payments)
- Amount

E) The bank teller shall machine validate the BIR-prescribed deposit slip accomplished by the taxpayer as evidence that the BIR tax payment was deposited to the account of the BTR. Said deposit slip shall be accomplished and issued in triplicate copies, distributed as follows: original (taxpayer's copy), duplicate (AAB's copy) and triplicate (to be attached to the tax return. Additionally, the AAB receiving the tax return/payment form shall also machine validate and stamp mark the word "Received" on the return/payment form as proof of filing the return/payment form and payment of the tax by the taxpayer. The machine validation on the return/payment form shall reflect the date of payment, amount paid and transaction code, the name of the bank, branch code, teller's code and teller's initials.

F) Before 12:00 NN of the following banking day, the head offices of the AABs shall provide to BTR/BIR the daily total amount of BIR taxes they collected.

G) After receipt of payment but not later than 24 hours thereafter, the AAB branch shall encode into the LBDE System and transmit to the concerned BIR Data Center, the below data and copy furnish the AAB head office.

1. Date of the transaction;
2. Name of the taxpayer;
3. Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) of the taxpayer;
4. Tax type which is being paid for;
5. Return period for the tax type being paid for;
6. Amount of tax paid;
7. Name of the drawee bank and check number, for tax payments through checks;

SEC. 3. MODES OF PAYMENT TO AABs—Aside from the electronic payment system currently used by some taxpayers in paying their BIR taxes, the rest shall pay their tax liabilities through any of the following modes: a) over-the-counter cash payments; b) bank debit system; or c) check payment system.

a) "Over-the-counter cash payment" refers to payment of tax liabilities to authorized agent bank in the currencies (paper bills or coins) that are legal tender in the Philippines. The maximum amount allowed per tax payment shall not exceed ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00).

b) "Bank debit system" refers to the system whereby a taxpayer, through a bank debit memo/advice, authorizes withdrawals from his/her existing bank accounts for payment of tax liabilities.

The bank debit system mode is allowed only if the taxpayer has a bank account with the AAB branch where he/she intends to file and pay his/her tax return/form/declaration, provided said AAB branch is within the jurisdiction of the BIR Revenue District Office (RDO)/Large Taxpayers District Office (LTDO) where the tax payment is due and payable.

c) "Checks" refers to a bill of exchange or Order Instrument drawn on a bank payable on demand.

In the issuance and accomplishment of checks for the payment of internal revenue taxes, as illustrated below, the taxpayer shall indicate in the space provided for "PAY TO THE ORDER OF" the following data: (1) presenting/collecting bank or the bank where the payment is to be collected and (2) FAO (For the Account Of) Bureau of Internal Revenue as payee; and under the "ACCOUNT NAME" the taxpayer identification number (TIN).

(Below is a sample of a tax check payment where the drawee bank and presenting bank are different from each other.)

ACCOUNT No. 000-249-1522-6	ACCOUNT NAME JUAN DELA CRUZ TIN: 123-45-678-90	Check No. 000001	R.I.N. 01023
PAY TO THE ORDER OF LAND BANK OF PHILIPPINES FAO BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE		HEPI 16 2002 P 1,000,000.00	
PESOS ONLY ONE MILLION			
RCBC BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE		(Signed) JUAN DELA CRUZ	
01265656-01023-01070-00024915226			

(Below is sample of a check tax payment drawn from and presented to the same bank.)

ACCOUNT No. 000-249-1522-6	ACCOUNT NAME JUAN DELA CRUZ TIN: 123-45-678-90	Check No. 000001	R.I.N. 01023
PAY TO THE ORDER OF FAO BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE		HEPI 16 2002 P 1,000,000.00	
PESOS ONLY ONE MILLION			
RCBC BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE		(Signed) JUAN DELA CRUZ	
01265656-01023-01070-00024915226			

The following checks are, however, not acceptable as check payments for internal revenue taxes:

1. Accommodation checks — checks issued or drawn by a party other than the taxpayer making the payment;
2. Second endorsed checks — checks issued to the taxpayer as payee who indorses the same as payment for taxes;
3. State checks — checks dated more than six (6) months prior to presentation to the authorized agent bank;
4. Postdated checks — checks dated a day or several days after the date of presentation to the authorized agent bank;
5. Unsigned checks — checks with no signature of the drawer;
6. Checks with alterations/erasures.

AABs accepting checks for the payment of BIR taxes and other charges must see to it that the check covers one tax type for one return period only. Moreover, AABs must strictly comply with the systems and procedures for the reception, processing, clearing and accounting of the checks to be prescribed under a separate regulation.

Second indorsement of checks which are payable to the Bureau of Internal Revenue or Commissioner of Internal Revenue is absolutely prohibited.

SEC. 4. TAX RETURNS PARTLY PAID THRU TAX DEBIT MEMOS

(TDMs) — AABs are mandated to accept tax returns/payment forms partly paid thru any of the modes of payment mentioned in Section 3 hereof and partly thru TDMs duly and validly issued by the BIR. Before accepting the BIR tax return/ payment form partly paid thru tax debit memo, the AAB shall ensure that the number of the TDM is indicated in the BIR tax return/ payment form in the same manner that the check number/drawee bank and bank debit advice number are indicated in the tax return/payment form paid thru check or bank debit system, respectively. A photocopy of the tax credit certificate (TCC), front and back page, which was the source of the TDM, together with a copy of the TDM, must be required from the taxpayer and attached to the BIR tax return/payment form.

TDMs are, however, not acceptable as payments for withholding taxes, including Fringe Benefit Tax (clarified and implemented under RR No. 2-98, as amended, and RR No. 3-98), and for taxes, fees and charges collected under special schemes / procedures / programs of the Government / BIR as discussed and elucidated in a separate revenue regulation. AABs shall see to it that this restriction is strictly observed in the BIR tax return/ payment forms they receive.

SEC. 5. ENROLLMENT OF TAXPAYERS WITH AUTHORIZED AGENT BANK NOT REQUIRED

— Taxpayers are not required to enroll with any AAB where they intend to file tax returns/payment forms and/or pay internal revenue taxes. Taxpayers may file tax returns/payment forms and pay internal revenue taxes with any AAB of the appropriate BIR office (Revenue District Office (RDO), Large Taxpayers District Office (LTDO), or Large Taxpayers Service, etc., whichever is applicable) where they are required to file the particular return/payment form.

SEC. 6. RESPONSIBILITY AND PRIVILEGE OF TAXPAYERS

— Taxpayers shall see to it that their tax returns/payment forms with payment are filed with and internal revenue taxes paid to legitimate AABs of the BIR. Nonetheless, they may confirm their tax payments with their home RDO / LTDO or LTDO / RDO where they are required to file tax returns/payment form and pay internal revenue taxes.

SEC. 7. ADDITIONAL LIABILITIES/RESPONSIBILITIES OF AUTHORIZED AGENT BANKS (AABs).

- (a) Any diversion, non-remittance or under-remittance of the taxes collected by AABs through fault or negligence of the bank accepting such payment as well as the diversion of any payment for BIR taxes using the facilities of the bank through fault or negligence of any of the bank's personnel shall subject the bank to civil and criminal liabilities provided for under Sections 248 and 275 of the Tax Code, as amended, and other existing laws, rules and regulations. AABs shall be liable to the BIR for double the amount of taxes diverted and unremitted, plus the increments and penalties prescribed by the Tax Code, as amended, but the total penalties imposed may be reduced on meritorious grounds subject to the approval of the majority of the members of the Management Committee (MANCOM) of the BIR, composed of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and the four (4) Deputy Commissioners, where the Commissioner of Internal Revenue votes for such reduction.

- (b) The reports of AABs to be submitted to BTR/BIR (under Sec. 2) of all the tax payments collected shall be in accordance with the forms prescribed by BIR.

- (c) The requirements prescribed in these regulations shall be included in the accreditation criteria to be mentioned in the Memorandum of Agreement to be signed by and among the BTR, BIR and the AAB for compliance by all AABs.

SEC. 8. REPEALING CLAUSE—All rules and regulations or portions thereof inconsistent with the provisions of these regulations are hereby modified, amended or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 9. EFFECTIVITY—These regulations shall take effect fifteen days from date of publication in the Official Gazette or any newspaper of general circulation. However, to provide sufficient time for AABs to make available to all participating branches the deposit slip required under Section 2-D, the effectivity date of the switch-over from the current acknowledgment slip shall be fifteen days from the effectivity of this Revenue Regulation.

Recommending Approval:

GUILLERMO L. PANGAYNO, JR.
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

JOSE ISIDRO CAMACHO
Secretary of Finance

WORLD BRIEFS

No time to lose

BEIJING—Sounding a health alarm for the world's most populous nation, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan warned Monday that China has "no time to lose" in preventing a massive outbreak of AIDS and must take decisive action to prevent it from hurting the country's economy. Annan made the remarks in a speech in the eastern city of Hangzhou, kicking off two days of consultations with Chinese leaders. The United Nations warned in a lengthy report this summer that 10 million Chinese could be infected by the end of the decade unless more is done. "The truth is that, today, China stands on brink of an explosive AIDS epidemic," Annan told 500 students at Zhejiang University's student activities center. *AP*

Governor hard to find

DUBAI—Iraq is neither Afghanistan nor post-war Japan, and the United States will not find it easy to name a "governor" in Baghdad, pundits have warned following disclosures that Washington was mulling the possibility of installing a military occupation government in the country. "They (Americans) may be able to do it on paper, but not on the ground," Mohammad Mesfer, a political science professor at Doha University in Qatar said. "It would be wrong to believe that Iraq is Afghanistan or Kuwait," where some 10,000 US troops are stationed, said French academic and Middle East expert Gilles Kepel. US Secretary of State Colin Powell confirmed on Friday that Washington was considering installing a military government in Baghdad, one of several contingency plans being worked on as US officials prepare for possible military action to oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. *AFP*

Writers threatened

FRANKFURT—Writers in China, Iran and Peru are being increasingly threatened and put in prison for their work, the International PEN writers' association has warned at the Frankfurt Book Fair. "In comparison with the first six months of 2001, the number of writers in prison observed by our association for the same period this year increased by a quarter," says the vice-president of PEN Germany, Karin Clark. "This was certainly due to increased censorship after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States," Clark said. "We in the West forget too easily that freedom is a dream for most people rather than a reality," adds Johano Strasser, who heads the German branch. Founded in London in 1921, PEN—poets, playwrights, editors, essayists, novelists—works regularly with the United Nations. *AFP*

Too much shrimp

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida—Peggy Whitson, the American astronaut spending her 130th day in space, said that she was happy in orbit, but maybe she brought along too much shrimp. "Sometimes, when you come to space, your tastes change. One of my favorite foods on the ground is shrimp, and up here I can't stand it," said Whitson, the science officer on the International Space Station. A quick check of the station's manifest showed that Whitson had planned more than 40 shrimp meals for her stay. "The guys like it because they get all my shrimp," she said, referring to her two Russian crewmates, Valery Korzun and Sergei Treshchev. *Reuters*

Wounded pride healed

MANAMA—Deep Fritz, the German-developed chess computer, healed its wounded pride, outwitting world champion Vladimir Kramnik in 35 moves to keep the \$1 million eight-match series alive. The supercomputer, programmed to evaluate 3.5 millions in a second, won its first game of the "Brains in Bahrain" challenge to narrow the 27-year-old Russian's lead to 3-2. Kramnik had won games two and three of the series, while the first and fourth games ended in draws. With 15 minutes on his clock to make six more moves, Kramnik, playing with black pieces, tried to avoid a long, tedious and possibly lost endgame and made the worst blunder of his career to lose a piece and resigned almost immediately. *Reuters*

Sharon comes in last

DEIR QANUN AN-NAHR, Lebanon—Ariel Sharon won't be taking home any prizes in Lebanon—he came in last in a race for the title of swiftest donkey. The donkey named for the Israeli prime minister came fifth out of five in a donkey race capping an annual festival in Deir Qanun an-Nahr village near Tyre in south Lebanon. Hundreds cheered the donkeys as they loped towards the finish line in the main square, where an animal named "Out of Gas" won first prize. A member of the village council who organized the race said that each jockey picked his beast's name. "The man who named his donkey Sharon wanted all eyes on his donkey, to live it up, and also to mock the other Sharon, who's made a name for himself through slaughter, especially of Palestinians," he said. *Reuters*

Ray Conniff; 85

LOS ANGELES—Ray Conniff, the composer, trombone player and bandleader who won a Grammy Award for his recording of the "Dr. Zhivago" theme "Somewhere My Love," has died. He was 85.

Conniff died at Palomar Medical Center in Escondido on Saturday after falling down and hitting his head, San Diego medical examiner's investigator Angela Wagner told The Associated Press.

Conniff had more than 100 recordings and produced 25 Top 40 albums for Columbia Records.

He rendered such classics as "Besame Mucho," "New York, New York," and "S' Wonderful," in a career that spanned six decades.

He produced 10 gold and two platinum records. He won CBS Records' Best Selling Artist for 1962 for the recording, "We Wish You A Merry Christmas."

The Ray Conniff Orchestra and Singers epitomized the lounge-singing style of the 1950s and 1960s with a mix of wordless vocal choruses and light orchestral accompaniment.

Though he got his start as a trombone player in the Big Band era playing with Bunny Berigan, Bob Crosby and Artie Shaw, Conniff broke out as a solo artist after being hired as a house arranger with Columbia Records in 1951.

He was responsible for Johnny Mathis' "Chances Are," Frankie Laine's "Moonlight Gambler,"



CONNIFF

Johnnie Ray's "Just Walking in the Rain," and Guy Mitchell's "Singing the Blues."

In 1956, Columbia decided to try out Conniff as a featured performer with a big-band mix that included guitarists Al Caiola and Tony Mottola. His debut album, "S' Wonderful," in which he combined a chorus of four men and four women with a traditional big band mix of 18 instruments, stayed on the Top 20 charts for nine months.

A 1962 article in McCall's magazine described his band as "singers who 'play' their voices as though they were instruments, more like subtly fluted woodwinds than singing."

A few of Conniff's singers were known studio vocalists including Louie Jean Norman and B.J. Baker. Jay Meyer assisted as conductor.

Conniff's instrumental arrangements provided easy listening for a booming adult album market.

His popularity waned with the rise of rock 'n' roll but stars such as The Carpenters, Simon and Garfunkel, The Fifth Dimension and Bert Bacharach benefited from his arrangements with recordings of "Laughter in the Rain," "I Write the Songs," and "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing."

Conniff received countless international awards, continued touring and produced about an album a year.

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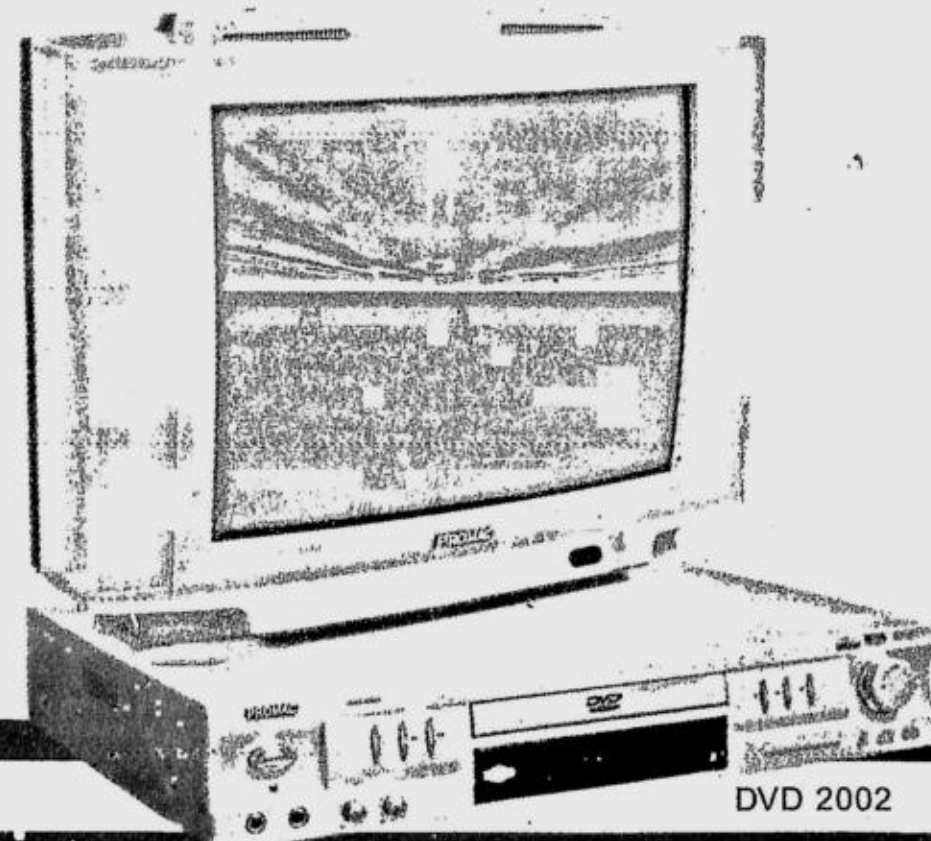
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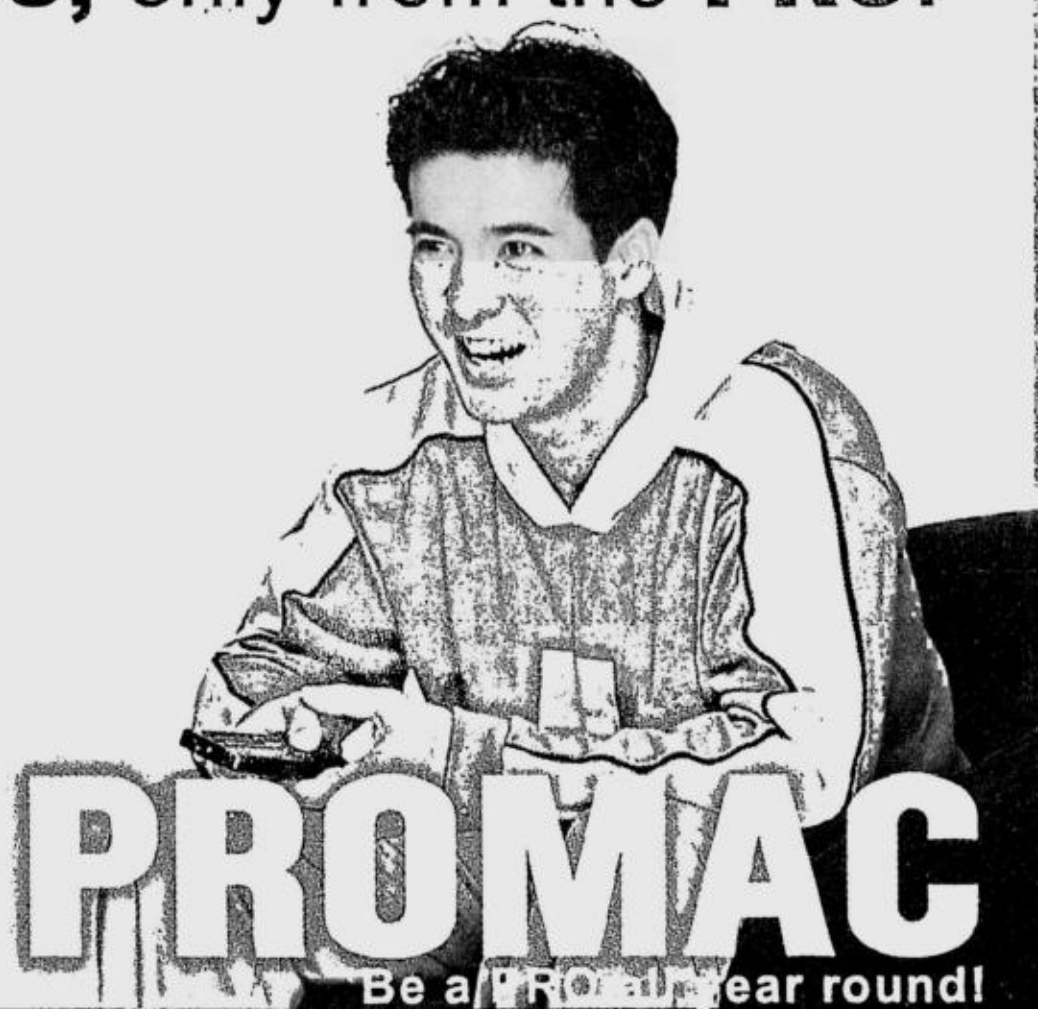
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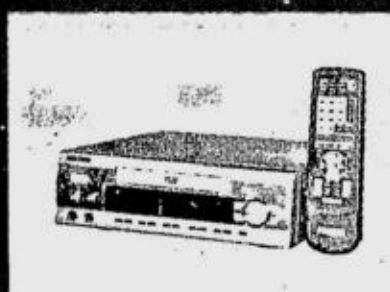


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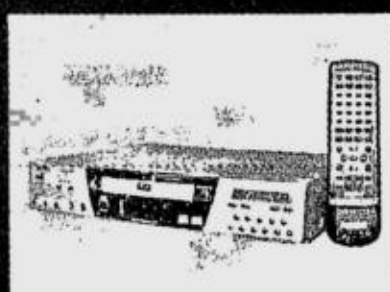


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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

NGOs launch anti-mining campaign

By Ryan D. Rosauero, PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAPITAN CITY—Opposition to large-scale mineral extraction activities has taken a new shape as leading anti-mining advocates nationwide converged and launched Friday a stepped up campaign to compel government to scrap the existing legal framework that governs mining activities in the country.

Dubbed "The Dapitan Initiative," in reference to its launching in this historic place, the campaign looks forward to snowballing into a social movement against large-scale, multinational corporation-led mining operations by building a potent force that will urge the government to rethink its policy on minerals utilization.

The new anti-mining lobby proceeds from the premises that mineral extraction in the country has wrought only harm to peoples and the environment rather than brought good, and that it has benefited only the elite few at the expense of the poor; and that it has not served the goals of national industrialization.

The initiative is backed by national and regional groups and institutions, including the religious.

Capping a gathering that began Thursday, a core of 25 advocates issued the landmark Dapitan Declaration which calls for scrapping the mining laws, cancellation of all existing mining contracts, and a century-long moratorium on the issuance of mining permits.

Chamber of Mines president Artemio Disini, told the INQUIRER that "the nationwide campaign by certain NGOs for the repeal of the mining act has been expected by the industry after the Johannesburg meeting in South Africa last month."

"However, we view that the Johannesburg summit reiterated the importance of minerals to modern living. The plan of action includes enhancing the contribution of mining, minerals and metals to sustainable development, which is also the objective of the mining industry and presumably the government."

The Chamber of Mines is the organization of companies engaged in large scale mining in the country. Disini, who is also the president of mining firm Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co., said the campaign is "counterproductive."

"Stopping an industry that contributes billions of dollars in foreign exchange, 300,000 in direct employment and educating 30,000 students in schools would be a step towards the deterioration of the economy," he said.

An executive of a large mining concern in the country also expressed alarm over the demands, fearful "this will scale down the appetite of foreign firms in investing in-

to the local mining industry" which is presently at its doldrums.

"It will scare multinational corporations away from the mining industry," said Dominico Pastoriza Jr., operations manager of the Canadian firm TVI Pacific Group of Companies which has focused its sight over the mineral potentials of a vast portion of Zamboanga del Norte.

He added that once shaken, foreign capitalists might withhold significant investments into the local mining industry. If this happens, he said, the country forfeits "a major option for economic development."

"Mining companies operating in the Philippines failed to live up to environmental safety standards and there are no indications they will," Arthur Neame, East Asia Program Director of the London-based Christian Aid, told reporters. He attended the gathering as an observer.

The advocates also declared their opposition to "the current legal framework provided by Republic Act Nos. 7942 and 7076."

RA 7942 or the controversial Philippine Mining Act of 1995 dealt with large-scale mining, which has been strongly criticized for the juicy privileges granted to foreign firms entering into the country for mineral exploration and extraction, among them 100 percent ownership of company equity, full repatriation of capital and profits and tax holidays.

RA 7076 or the Small-Scale Mining Act provides a framework for the operation of small-scale mines, but this has failed as displayed in the case of the Diwalwal miners in Monkayo, Compostela Valley, said University of the Philippines law professor Marvic Leonen, one of the 25 advocates.

Among the members of the new anti-mining lobby are Teddy Casifio of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Sr. Rosanne Mallillin of the Catholic Church's National Secretariat for Social Action and Engr. Catalino Corpuz of Minewatch Asia-Pacific. *With a report from Christine Gaylican*



SALUTE TO THE BRAVE

A MARINE soldier wounded during an encounter in Jolo is given a medal of honor by Defense Sec. Angelo Reyes, left, at the Southern Command hospital in Zamboanga on Sunday. Fierce clashes between the Marines and the Abu Sayyaf on Saturday left at least 11 soldiers dead and 26 others wounded on Jolo, military officials said.

Rebel group allowed to carry firearms

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Representatives of the government and the breakaway rebel group yesterday made official the granting of special permits to carry firearms to 100 members of the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa ng Pilipinas-Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPMP-RPA-ABB).

The announcement was made during a press conference, marking the start of the implementation of the peace agreement signed in December 2000.

The agreement also provides for the release of at least P510 million in funds to the rebel group.

Before the press conference, the Joint Enforcement and Monitoring Committee (JEMC) held its first meeting at the Hotel del Rio here.

The five-member committee, chaired by Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles, is tasked with monitoring and overseeing the enforcement of the provisions of the agreement provisions.

The other government representative is Undersecretary Victor Mayo, deputy director-general of the National Security Council.

The RPMP-RPA-ABB is represented by RPA-ABB national commander Stephen Paduano, also known as Carapal Lual-

hati, and Veronica Tabara.

The fifth member of the committee is Bishop Emeritus Hilario Gomez Jr. of the United Church of Christ of the Philippines, who is the JEMC vice chair.

Deles told a news conference that both parties adopted the general rules and procedures in the implementation of the agreement and the conduct of meetings of the JEMC.

In a two-page joint statement read by Deles, both parties agreed to "refrain from committing acts of aggression and/or antagonism..."

The JEMC will also formulate the mechanics for the release of P10 million "reintegration fund" for RPA-ABB members and 235 alleged political prisoners who will be released subject to review by a working committee.

The RPA-ABB will also get P500 million for the implementation of development projects but Deles said the source of the funds has yet to be identified.

Deles said the two sides also agreed two put up local monitoring teams, initially at the provincial level to aid the JEMC in monitoring the implementation of the peace agreement.

The three-member monitoring teams, to be formed by November, will be composed of a representative from both sides and a member of the community

acceptable to both parties.

Deles said those not covered with permit to carry firearms "will be apprehended just like any citizen." She said 12 leaders of the RPMP-RPA-ABB have already been issued the permits.

She, however, clarified that the agreement does not cover final disposition of Armed Forces, which will resolve issues including the status of the RPA-ABB.

Mayo said the RPA-ABB national leaders will avail of their permits to carry firearms from Camp Crame, while permits for other members will be issued by the firearms and explosive units of the Philippine National Police in the area where the RPA-ABB members are present.

Paduano said his group may "extend help in the maintenance of peace and order" in coordination with the Army and the police.

But he denied that they had become an appendage of government troops.

The RPA-ABB broke away from the Communist Party of the Philippines and New People's Army in the early 1990s over political and ideological differences.

The RPMP-RPA-ABB signed the peace pact with the Estrada government on Dec. 9, 2000, in Don Salvador Benedicto town, Negros Occidental, which used to be a stronghold of the breakaway movement.

The CPP-NPA has accused the RPA-ABB of colluding with the government for a fee.

DAR to install beneficiaries in Arroyo land in Negros

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Department of Agrarian Reform has assured that the landholding of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo in Binalbagan town, Negros Occidental will be distributed to the 56 farmer-beneficiaries before the end of October.

Felicidad Bañares, Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer, said the schedule of distribution was tentatively set on Oct. 28 because they had yet to complete the survey on Hacienda Manolita in Barangay Payao, Binalbagan, about 72 kilometers south of this city.

She said that while a collective Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) was issued on Sept. 25, there was no actual installation yet because a survey was needed to subdivide the property.

She told the INQUIRER yesterday that they had to make sure that the 97-hectare hacienda would be properly subdivided among the beneficiaries to prevent complaints later.

The Task Force Mapalad (TFM) has urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to fulfill her promise to distribute pieces of property owned by the First Gentleman and his family in Negros Occidental to show that her administration is serious in implementing the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Rorie Fajardo, TFM spokesperson, said the farmers had set up a big tent inside Hacienda Manolita yesterday because they were going to occupy the property due them.

Running priest Robert Reyes held a Thanksgiving Mass inside the hacienda, which was attended by the 56 beneficiaries as well as Bañares and Bob Jereza, who represented the Arroyo family.

Bañares told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that the farmers were amenable to the Oct. 28 tentative schedule for the actual distribution of the property.

She pointed out that there was no reason for a "forcible occupation" on the property because the Arroyo family was not resisting any land distribution.

Fajardo said the Arroyo family owns 748 ha in Negros Occidental, which have 342 identified farmer-beneficiaries.

Except for Hacienda Manolita, all Arroyo landholdings are still in various stages of land distribution, she said.

Aside from Hacienda Manolita, the First Gentleman owns the 88-ha JJ-Manolita Agricultural Corp. land also in Barangay Payao; and the 156-ha Hacienda Bacan in Barangay Guintubdan, Isabela town.

But Ignacio Arroyo said he does not know what the issue of TFM is against the Arroyo family. "I hope they can write to us directly to inform us," he said.

If the TFM's concern is that the land had not been distributed yet, he added, that is not the fault of his family because they have complied with the requirements of the Voluntary Offer to Sell program.

"The issue of Task Force Mapalad is with the DAR, not with us," he said. "The agrarian reform process is ongoing. We just have to be patient as everything will fall into place eventually."

Top vigilante hit man falls

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Police intelligence officials on Monday announced the arrest of a suspected hit man of a Nueva Ecija-based vigilante group and tagged him as behind the killing of six men last year.

Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, director of the Criminal Intelligence and Detection Group, also blamed the suspect, Lorenzo Hilalgo, for a series of kidnappings and murders.

In a statement here, Matillano said the Red Vigilante Group, "with Hilalgo in participation," was behind the kidnapping and murder of Michael Nuera, Florentino Pablo, Gerardo Pablo, Geronimo Andres, Dindo Fernando and Manolo Santos, all of Gapan, Nueva Ecija.

Their bodies were found in a remote village in San Miguel, Bulacan, early last year.

Matillano said Hilalgo also participated in the killing of father and son Julio and Julius Alejo last year, the murder of former Barangay Captain Romy Ferrer of Talavera town, the kidnapping of a Pangasinan businessman and the murder of two residents of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

Matillano claimed that Hilalgo was arrested on Oct. 10 but the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) said CIDG agents arrested him on Sept. 28. The RPA-ABB is claiming Hilalgo as a member of their group.

Contrary to claims by CIDG regional officials that Hilalgo was detained at the Nueva Ecija police jail in Cabanatuan City, reporters found him at the CIDG detention cell in this police camp.

Sought for comment on Matillano's statement, Hilalgo broke into tears and denied having committed the crimes attributed to him.

Last week, leaders of the RPA-ABB, assisted by representatives of the office of the presidential adviser on the peace process, asked police officials to free Hilalgo and Rizalino de Leon, another captured RPA-ABB member.

Miguel Guevarra, RPA-ABB Luzon command chief, said in a statement that the arrests of Hilalgo and De Leon were an "infringement" on the preliminary peace talks agreement his group and the government were about to sign. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Bayan Muna files bill to end IRRI immunity from suit

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—With the latest wave of labor disputes at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) caused by the dismissal of at least 165 workers last month, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo has filed House Bill No. 5095, or the "IRRI Workers' Rights Act," which seeks to lift the institution's immunity from suit with respect to the rights of workers.

Already signed by 16 other congressmen, including the leadership of the House committee on labor, House Bill 5095 seeks to help IRRI workers who have filed several cases of illegal retrenchment against the institute, but which have been dismissed by

invoking Presidential Decree 1620.

"IRRI has been violating the rights of its workers with impunity and thwarting their efforts to bring their cases to court by invoking immunity," Ocampo told the INQUIRER during his visit to the affected workers.

Duncan Macintosh, IRRI information officer, however, clarified that the Department of Foreign Affairs has already recognized IRRI's "international status" in its past judgment.

He added: "In all times, we have closely coordinated with the labor department of the Philippine government in adherence to the country's labor laws."

IRRI had to resort to a retrenchment of its employees due to a big cut from funding from Japan.

"We have no choice but to proceed with this very difficult process," he said.

A statement released by IRRI claimed that IRRI had complied with Philippine laws and will spend P188 million for the retrenchment.

On Oct. 1, IRRI terminated 165 workers, including Filipino scientists and researchers with an average length of service of 21 years.

The workers, however, have been unable to prosecute IRRI in the courts be-

cause of the immunity from suits and administrative proceedings bestowed by the Marcosian decree.

Ocampo also claimed that the IRRI management has reportedly failed to justify and properly consult its workers on the latest retrenchments.

"Clearly, an injustice is being committed against these Filipino scientists by the very institution they helped build and gain its current international stature," the Bayan Muna lawmaker said.

On Thursday, IRRI snubbed the first hearing at the National Labor Relations Commission Region-IV office in San

Pablo on the complaint of illegal dismissal by the 165 former workers.

IRRI said they would just leave the matter to the discretion of concerned and appropriate government agency.

"But we will attend the congressional hearing," Mackintosh said.

He also confirmed that IRRI has conducted two or three occasions of retrenchment of their employees in the past and "every time, there were always queries like this. But in the end, the government always uphold our international status." *Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2002

Across the **NATION**

A7

ROUNDUP**Fee for delivery trucks**

DUMAGUETE CITY—The City Council has asked Mayor Agustin Perdigon to suspend the implementation of an ordinance that imposes an "unloading" fee for delivery trucks from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the city, amid objections from businessmen. The Comprehensive Traffic Ordinance that took effect last month imposes unloading fees meant to help unclog traffic. Delivery trucks that unload their cargoes for an hour will be charged P50 and P25 for the succeeding hours. Businessmen assailed the imposition of the fee, saying a P50 "fine" would hardly decongest traffic. Perdigon said he might give in to the request of the city council if the businessmen who apparently misdeclared their gross sales pay more taxes.

Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

Mayor suspended

TACLOBAN CITY—Biliran Gov. Rogelio Espina slapped a 60-day preventive suspension against Caibiran town Mayor Melchor Maderazo pending investigation of the complaint of the town's seven councilors that the mayor ordered the construction last year of a P2-million bus terminal without bidding. Espina acted on the resolution of the provincial board passed on Sept. 23, recommending the suspension of Maderazo for grave abuse of authority and misconduct based on the findings of its blue ribbon committee. Maderazo said the suspension was politically motivated as he and the governor do not belong to the same party.

Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Grave misconduct

TAGBILARAN CITY—Sagbayan Mayor Jimmy Torrefranca charged Supt. Sancho Bernales, Bohol police director with grave misconduct and abuse of authority before the National Police Commission for the alleged summary relief of a town police chief and four other policemen. Torrefranca claimed that Insp. Precenciano Mansueto, Sagbayan police chief, and PO3 Teodulito Ngujo, PO3 Ador Suaybaguio, PO3 Lucio Compasion and PO1 Romelito Zarate were relieved on Aug. 15 because they arrested former Vice Mayor Castelar Borja, a political ally of Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado and Rep. Roberto Cajes. Bernales said the four policemen were relieved due to a complaint lodged against them and not because they arrested Borja, who had outstanding warrants for a string of estafa cases.

Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

Forestry program extended

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines has conveyed the approval of the extension of the Palawan Tropical Forestry Protection Program until Nov. 30, 2004. This special project of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff in cooperation with the European Union closed on June 15 after working with Palawan communities for six years. The focus of the extension is the South Palawan Planning Area. *Dominique Monera-Tabora, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

More protests vs PPA

CALAMBA CITY—Southern Tagalog cause-oriented groups vowed to support renewed protests against the new round of electricity rate increases. Leng Jucutin, spokesperson of People Opposed to Warantless Energy Rates-Southern Tagalog (POWER-ST) said in a statement that the "increase on the Purchased Power Adjustment for this month should not be passed on directly to the consumer, since the people are already saddled by the recent increases on petroleum products including the liquefied petroleum gas." Pastor Mel Abesamis of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-ST insisted that the government should increase the salaries of workers if it is futile in stopping the continued fuel price increases.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Direct power sale

NAGA CITY—The National Power Corp. has offered direct power sale to consumers here even as it experienced a drop in collection from power cooperatives in Camarines Sur. The Napocor extends direct power sale to consumers with at least 2,000-kilowatt monthly consumption, for Luzon consumers, and 1.5-megawatt monthly consumption, for Visayas and Mindanao consumers. Direct power sales to consumers, however, require approval from the Energy Regulatory Commission. Joselito Reyes, Napocor chief here, revealed that this year, the Napocor collected only P78 million, compared to last year's P92 million.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI southern Luzon Bureau

Ibalong Festival

LEGAZPI CITY—Residents and visitors lined along both sides of this city's main streets on Saturday afternoon to witness the street presentation that highlighted the 11th year celebration of the Ibalong Epic Festival. Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal said the Ibalong Epic Festival, especially the street presentation, is a re-enactment of the achievements by the three great epic warrior-heroes named Bantog, Hadyong and Bantong. Guest performers included delegates from the Baguio Flower Festival, the Pahiyas Festival of Lukban, Quezon, the Wallik Festival of Lipa City and the Sinulog Festival of Cebu City.

Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Food basket

CALAPAN CITY—Calapan City Mayor Arnan C. Panaligan wants the city to be the rice granary and food basket in the Calabarzon area, with its accessibility to mainland Luzon. He expressed his desire during the meeting of the Southern Tagalog Association of Regional Executives (Stars) held at the Parang Beach Resort here on Oct. 4. Directors from Southern Tagalog, chief of offices and representatives from other branches of the government participated in the meeting that aimed to further the development of Southern Tagalog.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Reproductive health bill opposed

Leyte Catholic Church leaders call measure 'demonic, anti-Church'

PALO, Leyte—Leaders of the Catholic Church here are gearing up for mass action to oppose the pending House Bill that allows the Filipino to gain access to reproductive health.

"This is a demonic piece of legislation. It is not just anti-Church but is also anti-life," said Father Erbie Lajara, Diocese of Palo director for family life apostolate and ministry.

He said the Palo Diocese as well as the parishes in Eastern Visayas planned to conduct a signature campaign against the pending HB 4110, known as Reproductive Health Care Act.

Lajara said they will also lobby the congressmen to junk the bill. "We're praying for the conversion of their hearts and for them not to approve HB 4110," he said.

Lajara added that they will conduct an information drive by using the pulpit, to inform the faithful "of the evils," which would be brought by proposed legislation if passed into law.

Palo Archbishop Pedro Dean, he said, was supposed to leave for Rome but he decided to forego of the trip because he wanted to join the campaign against the bill.

"He is really (very much) against this bill. In fact, all the moves that we will be conducting in (airing) our opposition to this bill have his blessings," said Lajara.

Under HB 4110, Filipinos will

have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility. They will also have the right to access appropriate health-care services that will enable women to go through pregnancy safely.

The Department of Health would be assigned as the implementing agency and would convene the Reproductive Health Management Committee whose members include, among others, the Population Commission and the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Among the sponsors of the bill are Leyte Rep. Carmen Cari of the fifth district and Samar Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura of the second district.

But Lajara said the proposed legislation, once passed into law, would lead to promiscuity among young Filipinos especially that all forms of contraceptives would be considered legal.

"This bill legalizes abortion. Our young children could now become amoral," he said.

He was referring to a section of the bill that mandates the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education to integrate reproductive health into the curriculum of both public and private schools.

Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Alvarez pushes debate on population policy

BAGUIO CITY—Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez cited on Thursday the need to build more houses for 150 million Filipinos by 2035 but the government should rethink its population policy.

Alvarez raised the "population explosion" issue during the national convention of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association (Creba), which was urged by President Macapagal-Arroyo to fill up the shelter backlog of over 100,000 units.

In her message, the President acknowledged her "disappointment" over missing the housing target she had pledged during her State of the Nation Address (Sona) last year.

But Alvarez said urban population continues to grow by 2 percent, expending resources beyond a city's carrying capacity.

The government, however, still adheres to the "responsible parenthood" policy, which encourages a "moral" outlook in the population control program, he said.

Congress is pushing for a more aggressive reproductive health measure, which the Catholic Church has labeled as "anti-Christ" and an "abortion-endorsing."

The bill advocates scientific measures at curbing unwanted pregnancies and seeks to educate parents about their sexual rights.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a proponent of the reproductive health bill, said in a radio interview that the Catholic Church has been misrepresenting the reproductive health measure.

He added that the Catholic bishops and priests have resorted to blackmail by threatening the congressional proponents with a political boycott in the 2004 elections. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Indonesia: We are sure al-Qaida here

From page A1

camp, he added.

Clive Williams, director of terrorism studies at the Australian National University, said that while he believed the Bali blast was a JI operation, "there is no question that the JI is linked to the al-Qaida and has been receiving training and financial support from the al-Qaida."

He attributed his conviction that it was a locally planned attack to the fact that "the al-Qaida normally only targets Americans, although other nationalities may get involved."

But, he said, "part of the al-Qaida training is how to do vehicle bombs. I think this one was intended to undermine the tourist industry in Indonesia and undermine the legitimacy of the Indonesian government."

The thing with most Muslim extremist groups associated with al-Qaida is they do some operations or provide support for the al-Qaida and they also do their own operations," he said.

One of the first to name the JI as a suspect in the Bali blast was Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer.

The other day, Downer said: "The Jemaah Islamiyah does have links to the al-Qaida and it's conceivable that an organization like that could be behind this action."

Downer, along with the governments of Malaysia and Singapore, have named Indonesian cleric Abubakar Bashir, 64, as one of the leaders of the JI.

US reaction

US President George W. Bush condemned the terrorist act. "The world must confront this global menace, terrorism," Bush said. "And we must call this despicable act by its rightful name, murder."

An FBI team is on its way to Bali to help in the blast investigation.

Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama said after an FBI and CIA briefing that there was "a definite terrorist link" to the bombings and more assaults could be expected.

A senior US official said the al-Qaida had long had a presence in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country, but had no information on whether the group was involved in the blasts. "There are a number of reasons that you have to say that it might be them, but we don't know that," the official said.

"They've been in Indonesia... they're all running from Afghanistan. They've got to go someplace."

The al-Qaida is suspected in an attack last week that killed a US Marine in Kuwait. The blast that gutted a French tanker near Yemen last week resembled the attack two years ago on the US destroyer Cole that killed 17 sailors, which Washington has blamed on the al-Qaida.

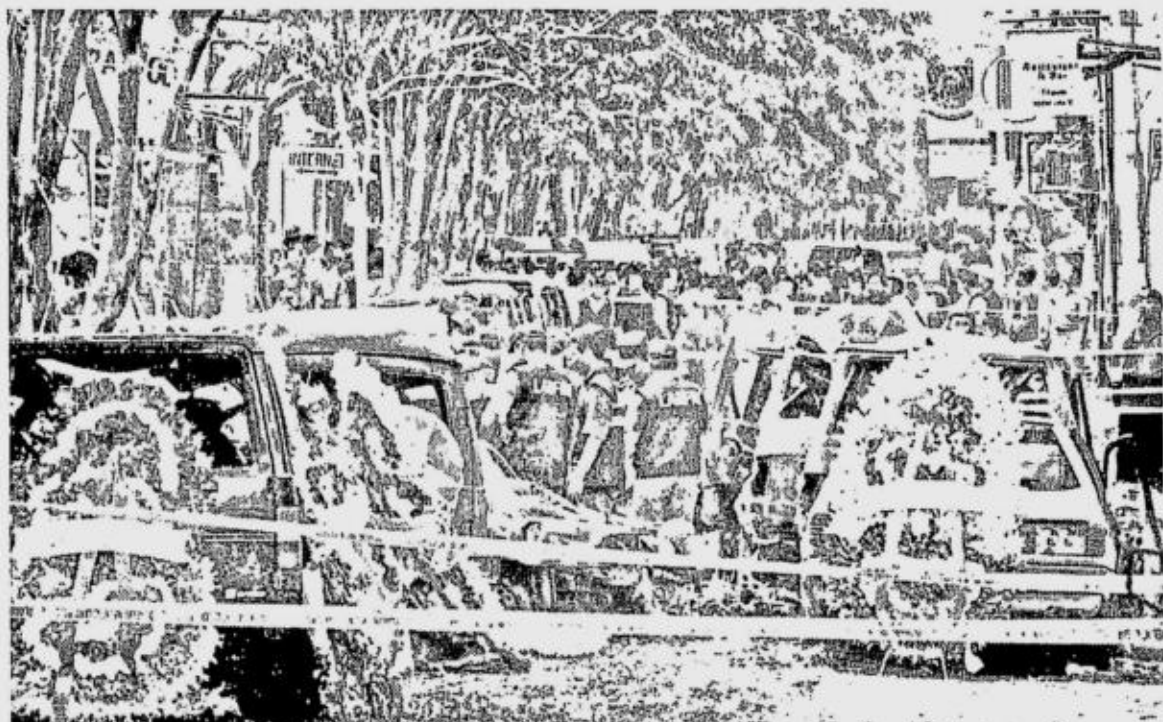
Theocratic state

Singapore is holding 31 suspected JI members under its tough security laws, while neighboring Malaysia has detained 63 alleged extremists belonging to the JI-linked Malaysian Militant Group (KMM). Officials say the JI aims to create a theocratic Islamic state covering Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei and the southern Philippine island of Mindanao.

The JI has already been implicated in a plot at the beginning of this year to bomb foreign embassies in the region.

"The attack bears the hallmarks of the JI," said an expert on the al-Qaida, Rohan Gunaratna. "Only the JI has both the intention and capability to conduct a professional terrorist attack like the Bali operation."

Indonesian Security Minister Bambang Susilo Yudoyono said there were signs that terrorists



POLICEMEN check the blast site in Legian Street in the tourist area in Kuta on Bali island following Saturday's car bombing incident.

AFP

were planning attacks against key industrial sites, including Exxon Mobil's Arun liquefied natural gas plant in Aceh and the Caltex refinery in Sumatra.

"We will increase the security alert in those areas," Yudoyono said after the Cabinet meeting.

Paradise lost

"Bali used to be known as paradise," said Indonesian Health Minister Achmad Suyudi. "Now, it's like hell in paradise."

The US Embassy in Jakarta, often the target of bomb threats, ordered all non-essential staff and dependents to leave the country. A bomb threat shut down the embassy's club for the second day.

The Australian school in Jakarta also closed as a precaution.

Aside from the FBI, Australian detectives joined the hunt for the killers while forensic experts

painstakingly tried to identify bodies—many badly burned and mutilated.

Balinese officials said only 39 positive identifications had been made, listing 15 Australians, eight Britons, five Singaporeans, six Indonesians, one German, one French citizen, one Dutch citizen, one New Zealander and one Ecuadorean.

"But in London, the government said at least 30 Britons had died. Two Americans were killed and three injured, the US state department said.

Seven UN staffers from nearby East Timor, vacationing in Bali, were injured and two remain unaccounted for, UN officials said.

Australian C-130 Hercules air force planes flew through the night to evacuate injured Australians. Some 200 were airlifted to the northern city of Darwin.

Small groups of relatives and

friends flew into Bali on Monday and headed for hospital morgues to try to identify the charred bodies of their loved ones.

They filed silently into a small room at the main Sanglah hospital to view photographs. Among them was Dutch tourist Paul Goulmy looking for a friend last seen at the Sari.

"We think the chances of finding him are very, very low," he said.

Many Indonesians appeared stunned at the carnage on the "island of the gods"—as Bali, a Hindu enclave in a moderate Muslim nation, is popularly known.

The Jakarta Stock Exchange index fell about 9 percent, and the rupiah dropped to 9,300 to the US dollar, from last week's level of 9,000.

Tourism accounts for 4 percent of Indonesia's gross development product and employs 8 million

Blast victims praise rescuers' bravery

From page A1

"Everyone was just trying to do their bit," said Tim McGrath, a footballer from Geelong, west of Melbourne.

"All their clothes were burnt off. It was horrendous," he said. He had torn up hotel bed sheets to use as bandages for the wounded.

Relatives of a group of young men from Perth told how seven of them defied flames immediately after the bombing to rescue a critically hurt friend, Aaron Linsey, 19.

"They went back and climbed over bodies and body parts to get their mate out (and) took him to the clinic and got him to the hospital," said Kim Kennedy, the mother of one of Linsey's friends.

Linsey was in critical but stable condition in hospital, his father said.

McGrath was with one of several Australian football teams in Bali celebrating the end of the season. About a dozen players were among the more than 220 Australians unaccounted for as of yesterday.

The official death toll of Australians was 14, but was certain to rise.

One club from suburban Perth was still missing seven members. Coach Simon Quayle said that after scouring the hospitals in vain he was building up the courage to go to the morgue.

"Realistically we expect most, or at least half, or all the blokes to be located somewhere in that morgue," Quayle told a Perth radio station.

Life-long friends

Angela Graham, a 28-year-old banker from Melbourne, said she found life-long friend Sophie Karagiannis trapped under burning debris and had to push aside a charred corpse to free her.

"It was weird, all I could think about was me and her getting of their alive," Graham said.

A Sydney junior rugby league club was not so fortunate after players found five of their teammates lying in a Bali morgue. They also faced the grisly task of sifting through body parts to identify a sixth missing player.

Former rugby league test player Craig Salvatore said he could not find his wife, who turned 38 Monday, after she and a group of women left him to go dancing at the nightclub after her



INJURED victims arrive in Darwin, Australia for urgent medical attention.

AFP

birthday dinner.

"I'm not going until I find my wife and bring her home one way or the other" he said.

A nightmare

Sobbing travellers arriving home on hastily scheduled charter flights told of the "nightmare" their holiday had become.

"I just couldn't believe it," said one woman at the Sydney airport. "I just didn't know what to do." Others praised efforts by fellow Australians to rescue victims—whether friend or stranger.

The attack in Bali badly shook a nation that had largely considered itself too far away to be impacted by terrorism and the wrath of al-Qaida.

Newspaper columnist Tony Walker said that whether Australians liked it or not, "we are now in a different era, when geographical isolation will not provide a security cushion as it has in the past."

Still in shock

The popular Balinese district of Kuta Beach was struggling Monday to overcome the shock of the horrendous terrorist attack.

On Legian Street, a once lively strip of pubs, restaurants, hotels and shops in Bali's tourist center, all was quiet following the car bomb late Saturday.

The Bounty Club was boarded up, with a sign announcing a "happy hour" now being used to bar the entrance. Nearby, a Mexican

and Japanese restaurant were open but with only a couple of customers each.

Before the tragedy, the entire stretch of Legian Street and the surrounding area would have been thronged with holiday makers from as far away as Europe, Australia and the United States who had come to Bali to unwind.

Philip Larmour, 25, and his brother Michael, 30, were among the few brave enough to cap the night with a few glasses of wine.

"We're from Belfast in Ireland," they chorused with a laugh, alluding to similar deadly bomb attacks in their home city.

"But this one is worse," said Philip, a lift engineer. "It's very bad, it looks like a war zone." "But I don't want to leave. I don't believe they (the perpetrators) should force us to leave our holiday."

Apart from the devastation at Padi's and Sari's, both reduced to rubble, many of the surrounding buildings were badly damaged. The glass facade of The Mambo store had been shattered, with merchandise strewn on the pavement.

At Tara, which sold VCDs and DVDs, only the posters of Russell Crowe's "A Beautiful Mind" and Robert Redford's "The Last Castle" were left on the single blue wall which remained standing.

"People come here to have fun," said businessman Henry Ho. "And now, just one night... boom."

AFP

Mikee romps off with third RP gold

From page A1

ished the second round with two time faults for taking too long to complete the course. They then competed in a jump-off over a shortened course, with time used to break any equality of faults.

Lee, the first rider in the jump-off, hit the last jump—a wall—for four faults. When her turn came, Mikee knocked a rail but it didn't fall, giving her a clear round and relegating Lee to silver.

Japan's Tadayoshi Hayashi, riding Caracas, took the bronze after

finishing with four faults in the second round. Hayashi, a member of the Japanese team that won the team show jumping gold on Saturday, was heavily favored to win in the individual event.

The 5-foot-7 Mikee, whose eyes welled with tears on the victory podium, said she planned to take a long rest. "I miss my family so much," she said.

Mikee, who has been riding since she was 10, gave birth to her second child last December and resumed training in Malaysia and Australia in March.

On hand to celebrate her victo-

ry were husband Dodot and father, former Rep. Peping Cojuangco.

"This is my best birthday gift ever," said Dodot, the son of basketball legend and Sen. Robert Jaworski.

"I feel like I'm flying. Her sacrifices paid off," said Cojuangco, president of Philippine Equestrian Association.

Mikee's niece, Danielle Cojuangco, finished eighth in the event, while Sydney Olympian Toni Leviste backed out after incurring 13 penalty points in the morning round.

Though she hardly needs the money, Mikee stands to receive P1 million from the Philippine Sports Commission and P500,000 from RP team supporter Samsung for her gold medal effort. She also has a share in the P750,000 prize of the Philippine riding team that won the silver medal in the team show jumping event on Sunday.

The Philippine won a total of three golds in the Busan Asiad, surpassing its one-gold performance in the Bangkok Games four years ago.

Malaysia tells ...

From page A1

Malaysian guards of rape was a Philippine citizen and for lodging a diplomatic protest.

"If the Philippine government says the girl is their citizen, they are wrong," he was quoted as saying by the national news agency, Bernama. "The natural thing for them to do is to say, 'Sorry, we have made a mistake.'"

Syed Hamid suggested that the misunderstanding arose because the Philippine government relied on media reports without investigating the case on its own.

"I hope the Philippine government will be more careful before listening to wild accusations," he said. He did not comment directly on the rape allegations.

The girl, referred to as "Angelica" to protect her identity, claimed last month that she was raped before being expelled from Sabah, prompting President Macapagal-Arroyo to lodge a diplomatic protest.

Sabah police said last week DNA tests proved that the girl was a Malaysian citizen because her father was Malaysian. Her mother was from the Philippines but now lives in Sabah, although the couple separated 10 years ago, police said.

But Philippine Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuñiga said yesterday in Manila that Malaysia had yet to produce legal documents proving that Angelica was Malaysian.

"There is no definite finding as to her Malaysian citizenship," he said. "It's up to the Malaysian police to prove that she is really Malaysian. They have to convince us that her mother is a Malaysian."

Earlier, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said Angelica had dual citizenship by virtue of her father being Malaysian and her mother, Filipino. "Until the age of maturity, she (holds) dual citizenship," he said.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad ordered an investigation last month into the plight of Angelica, who was expelled along with thousands of Filipinos living in Sabah in a crackdown on undocumented workers.

Many complained of overcrowding and unsanitary conditions at Malaysian detention camps, and three young Filipino children reportedly died during the mass expulsions. Malaysia has denied any mistreatment at its camps.

The Malaysian government

workers. Bali is by far the most popular destination, attracting 1.4 million foreigners in 2001, and an expected exodus of visitors could cause devastating repercussions for Indonesia.

The Indonesian media called the deadly blast a national tragedy and attacked the government for taking the terrorist threat after the Sept. 11 attacks lightly.

"Until Saturday night's blast, very few people in Indonesia had taken the threat of terrorism seriously," the respected Jakarta Post said in a hard-hitting editorial. "This goes not just for the government, the politicians and major political parties but also the public, including the media," it said.

Rescue teams

Yesterday, rescue teams worked on the grim task of identifying hundreds of badly burned victims.

Television footage showed many of the wounded at the hospital, still looking shocked and dazed from the trauma.

One woman, her face disfigured by burns, flashed the V sign as she fought off television lights while being wheeled out of the hospital's surgery room.

Doctors at the intensive care unit of Sanglah state hospital earlier Monday put the number of dead in Indonesia at 188.

The head of the Bali health office, Made Molin Yudiassa, said the discrepancy "could have been because of human error."

Most of the bodies recovered from the blast and fire were charred beyond recognition and others were blown to pieces.

Suyudi also said 152 people were treated in hospital or clinics for injuries, with 137 people having sought treatment at Sanglah hospital and another 15 at four other clinics and hospitals. Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters

has suggested that Angelica be turned over to it because her mother is also Malaysian, Perez yesterday told the INQUIRER.

He said this was relayed to him by Nur Jaafar, the President's adviser on Muslim affairs, who went to Kuala Lumpur last week.

Perez also said the Malaysian government wanted Angelica's case to be treated like that of Moro leader Nur Misuari. He said it was urging the Philippines to reciprocate the goodwill it extended when it voluntarily handed Misuari over to Philippine officials in January.

Misuari, the former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao who was suspected of fomenting a revolt in Jolo, Sulu, in November 2001, escaped to Malaysia to avoid prosecution.

But he was held by Malaysian authorities for violation of that country's immigration laws, and was subsequently brought back on the request of Philippine officials.

He is detained at a police camp in Silang, Cavite, while awaiting trial for rebellion.

Malaysian police had earlier asked that Angelica be sent back to Sabah—a request that the Philippine foreign affairs, social welfare and justice departments rejected.

Perez said yesterday that contrary to the claim of Malaysian authorities, Angelica's mother was Filipino and "(the girl) can stay here because she is also a Filipino."

He added: "Maybe it's better if she stays here. It is possible that she will not get protection there because she is accusing some Malaysian guards."

Perez also said Angelica's dual citizenship would have a bearing on the legality of her expulsion from Sabah. "It means that the deportation was not correct," he said. "She can go back if she wants."

But Angelica's dual citizenship would not affect the rape case to be filed, he said, adding: "We are going to pursue it."

2 counts

According to Perez, Angelica is a Malaysian citizen on two counts: Her father is Malaysian and she was born in Sabah.

Malaysia subscribes to the *jus soli* (right of the soil) rule that determines the citizenship of a child according to the place of its birth. But the Philippines follows the *jus sanguinis* (right of blood) rule that bases the citizenship of a child on the citizenship of the parents. Reports from AP and Michael Lim Ubac

MILF: Bali bombing has no place in Islam

THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) yesterday distanced itself from the Indonesian-based Jemaah Islamiyah and condemned "in the strongest terms possible" the deadly bomb attack in Bali.

"This kind of terror activity has no place in Islam," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu told the Agence France Presse by phone from his base in Mindanao. "Authorities should investigate this very closely and bring to justice those who are responsible."

Kabalu also denied that the MILF was linked to the Jemaah Islamiyah, a radical Islamic movement that intelligence authorities described as the Southeast Asian front for the al-Qaida terror network.

"We are denying this," he said. "We welcome any government investigation so these allegations will be cleared. We have already told (government peace negotiators) to conduct a formal investigation so they could determine if we have members linked to the Jemaah Islamiyah."

According to Kabalu, some government sectors could be

trying to "condition the minds of the public" that the MILF is a terrorist organization to justify military offensives in the South.

The secessionist group signed a ceasefire agreement with the government last year to open the door to peace talks.

Armed Forces chief Gen. Benjamin Defensor said Sunday that at least 20 MILF rebels were killed in a "pre-emptive strike" on a rebel camp near Lanao del Sur province last weekend.

He said the offensive was launched after MILF members, reinforced by members of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, were spotted massing and training in the area.

Kabalu said military helicopter gunships and OV-10 bombers continued to bombard MILF camps, in violation of the ceasefire agreement.

"We are still hopeful, however, that backdoor peace negotiations will continue with the government," he said. "But we will file a formal complaint with the peace negotiating panel."

AFP

4 guards jailed for Abu escape

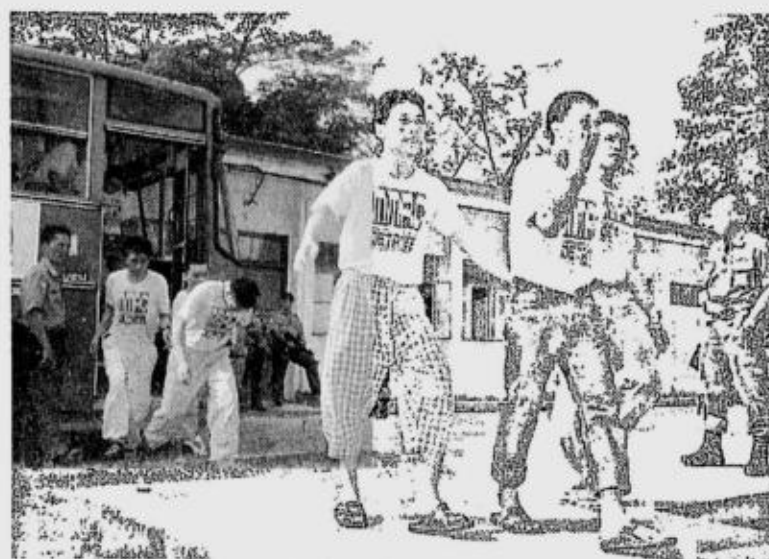
From page A1

the prison facility, Romeo Vio, said on television that he had been too tolerant of the sensibilities of Muslim prisoners, allowing the entry of women visitors without being frisked.

Several suspected Abu Sayyaf members are detained at the MMRC while the Pasig City Regional Trial Court is hearing the kidnapping and serious illegal detention charges lodged against them by the Department of Justice last year.

The escape was another embarrassing setback for the government which has seen other high-profile detainees flee from jails in recent months. Suspected drug lord Henry Tan sneaked out of Camp Crame on Sept. 29 while alleged Pentagon kidnap gang leader Faisal Marohombar escaped from the same police camp two months earlier.

The escape of the Sailani brothers comes amid a massive military operation against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu where the Abu Sayyaf is holding hostage three Indonesian seamen and four female Jehovah's Witnesses. The government has said 11 soldiers were killed and 25 others wounded in an assault on the bandits' lair in Patikul, Sulu on



CAMP Bagong Diwa guards keep close watch at suspected Abu Sayyaf members as they attend a court hearing.

ERIK ARAZAS

Saturday.

The military said a top Abu Sayyaf commander was wounded and six of his men were shot dead in the same encounter. Armed Forces spokesperson Eduardo Purificacion identified the Abu Sayyaf leader as Radullah Sahiron.

Heavier penalty

The Department of Justice has asked Congress to pass a stricter law against erring jail guards. Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito

Zuñio said it was high time for lawmakers to come up with a heavier penalty for guards whose prisoners escaped during their watch.

"There should be a law that will require jail guards to assume the sentences (imposed on the escapees)," said Zuñio, who wants the erring guards to assume half of the escapees' sentences.

Zuñio lamented that under the law, prosecutors could only charge the guards with "infidelity in the custody of prisoners." The proposed measure, if made into

law, would certainly "have a deterrent effect" on the guards, he said.

Sen. Noli de Castro is receptive to the idea to toughen the law against law enforcers who allow suspects or prisoners to escape."

De Castro noted that the escape of suspects in police custody had "become a vicious cycle of negligence and malfeasance."

"How many more escapes should we go through before our law enforcers learn to perform their duties conscientiously?" he asked.

The senator suggested that law enforcers be given more extensive training, particularly those tasked with guarding the detention centers nationwide.

In the meantime, police beefed up security at Camp Bagong Diwa.

At least 120 policemen in full battle gear are now guarding the headquarters, especially the MMRC which contains several other suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits, according to Supt. Carlito Abogado, the camp commander.

Abogado said he also deployed two more mobile units, bringing to 24 the number of policemen patrolling the perimeter of Camp Bagong Diwa. *With reports from Rocky Nazareno, Alcuin Papa and Martin Marfil*

Indon cleric blames US, allies

From page A1

thing," said Abu Bakar Bashir, accused by some governments of heading the Jemaah Islamiyah—a shadowy al-Qaida-linked group that aims to set up a pan-Islamic Southeast Asian state.

"I suspect that the bombing was engineered by the United States and its allies to justify allegations that Indonesia is a base for terrorists," he told the Associated Press in telephone interview from Solo, a city in central Java, where he runs an Islamic boarding school.

Many of the dead and wounded from the blasts and a subsequent fire were Australian vacationers.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer has identified the Jemaah Islamiyah as the prime suspect in the attack, though no group has yet claimed responsibility.

Australia is one of Washington's strongest supporters in the US-led war on terror and has wholeheartedly backed the Bush administration's hardline stand against Iraq. It also angered many Indonesian nationalists when it deployed peacekeepers to East Timor to end a wave of violence that swept that territory after it voted for independence from Indonesia in 1999.

Western targets

The Jemaah Islamiyah is accused of plotting a series of bomb attacks against the US, British and Australian embassies and other Western targets in neighboring Singapore last year.

According to US security officials, the Jemaah Islamiyah resembles the al-Qaida in its organization and like al-Qaida, operates across international boundaries. The group, which seeks to establish a pan-Islamic state in Southeast Asia, is believed to have cells in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Myanmar and Thailand.

The United States has sought Indonesia's help in the war on terror. The country has arrested several suspects and

shared intelligence, but ignores US calls for the arrest of other suspected terrorists, including Bashir.

On Monday, Indonesian police declined to say whether any action would be taken against Bashir.

"We are still investigating. I cannot say anything about anyone, including him," said national police spokesperson, Maj. Gen. Saleh Saaf.

In the past, Bashir—a scholar-like preacher who wears a beard, wire-rimmed glasses and a white skull cap—has denied that he is a terrorist or has links with terrorism. He has warned that jailing him would provoke the ire of many Muslims, who make up about 90 percent of Indonesia's 210 million people.

In an interview with AP last month, Bashir said: "I am not fighting

against the American people but against the US government. The government and the Jews are fighting against Muslims. It's part of a crusade by America to attack Islam. The United States hates me because I struggle in the name of Islam."

Arrests

Suspensions against Bashir hardened following the arrest of an alleged al-Qaida-linked operative, Omar al-Faruq, in Indonesia on June 5.

Al-Faruq was handed over to US authorities and, according to a CIA document cited by Time magazine recently, implicated Bashir in a plot to bomb US embassies in Southeast Asia on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

The threats led to the closure of diplomatic missions in In-

donesia, Malaysia, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Singapore has arrested 32 members of the Jemaah Islamiyah since December. Malaysia has also arrested more than 60 Muslim radicals—some of them allegedly belonging to Jemaah Islamiyah.

Another alleged leader, Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi, is serving a 12-year jail term in the Philippines after pleading guilty earlier this year to possessing explosives.

Bashir has insisted that he doesn't know al-Faruq nor any other alleged terrorists.

The former Suharto dictatorship jailed Bashir in the late 1970s on subversion charges for promoting an Islamic state. He later fled to Malaysia for 14 years to avoid additional jail time. AP

MATTERS

by Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan

MOMS NEED PAMPERING TOO!

There is no such thing as a supermom. We may do our duties at a rate that's faster than a speeding bullet and juggle our roles ever so cleverly. However, at the end of the day (or sometimes, even during midday), moms do get exhausted, with their patience worn thin and with a terrible headache, too. I'd be the first to admit that during my stressed-out times, I've snapped at my loved ones and that truly made me feel worse than ever!

Which just goes to show --- MOTHERS ARE HUMAN, TOO!

Let's face it - like any other human being, we moms long to be nurtured and be made to feel special. We seek rest and appreciate a few minutes of peace and solitude to get our bearings straight. We need this before we can face a husband deadtired from work and in need of a massage and a listening ear...or a bunch of energetic kids all raring to share their stories and wanting to have some of your undivided attention also.

When I was just starting out as a mom, I said to myself - Family first, before myself...at all times. I'd let my kids and husband get their share of dinner before I dig in...I'd push myself to do my chores even when I feel a headache.

"...we long to be nurtured and be made to feel special."

Then, I realized - hey, I enjoy bonding during our family meals more on a full stomach...and yes, I am able to do more work with much better results when I'm up and about and without any pain.

And so, we must learn to take good, good care of ourselves. Love your body enough to feed it on time and with naturally healthful foods...to make it rest and recharge. I've learned to wake up before my family does to spend some moments with God and then, pamper myself with a shower, play a

game of badminton or enjoy an exhilarating massage.

Most especially, I've learned not to ignore but to pay attention to any pain I feel. The minute I feel a headache coming, I take Biogesic. It's the one and only headache reliever that has worked for me all these years! I know for a fact that the medicine in Biogesic is so safe, I actually take it whenever headache strikes, even on an empty stomach. In minutes, I feel well and ready to take on anything again.

Truly, we mothers should give ourselves a dose of the love we give our family. For it is when we take good care of ourselves that we can take care of our family even much better.

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Kitajima is best athlete

BUSAN, South Korea—Japan's Kosuke Kitajima, who broke swimming's oldest standing men's world record, was voted best athlete of the Asian Games which wrapped up Monday. Kitajima, a triple gold medalist, was the overwhelming choice in the vote by journalists covering the event. He became the first man to crack the 2:10 seconds barrier in the 200m breaststroke in his swim of 2:09.97 to smash American Mike Barrowman's 10-year-old mark.

AFP

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Associate Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SPORTS

FOUR DIGIT

2 3 8 0

(In exact order)

SUERTRES

8 2 4

MEGALOTTO 6/45

12 17 24 28 33 36

ASIAN GAMES FAREWELL

RP bets march with heads unbowed

Mikee is contingent's inspiration during closing ceremonies

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea—Their spirits buoyed up by Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski's surprise equestrian gold just hours ago, Filipino athletes marched with heads unbowed during last night's boisterous closing ceremonies of the 14th Asian Games here.

Mikee's gold was a fitting farewell performance for the gold medal-starved Filipinos.

The stunning victory by the 28-year-old Mikee, a mother of two and the wife of Sen. Robert Jaworski's son Dodot, brought to three the total of gold medals won by the Philippines as the Filipinos surpassed their one-gold performance in Bangkok four years ago.

Dramatic victory

"As I keep saying," said Eric Buhain, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, "we must always believe in the Filipino's capability to rise to the occasion during the toughest of times. Mikee proved that again today. Was I glad I witnessed Mikee's dramatic victory."

More importantly, the gold added to the two previously won by bowlers Paeng Nepomuceno and RJ Bautista and cue artists Django Bustamante and Nikoy Lining, smashing the total haul of medals in the Hiroshima Asiad in 1994.

The Filipinos totaled 3-7-16, win-silver-bronze this year compared to the 3-2-8 in Hiroshima eight years ago.

"What more can you ask for?" said Cito Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee. "Our campaign ended on a happy note. Mabait pa rin ang Diyos sa atin."

With spectators cheering wildly at the 85,000-seat Main Stadium, athletes from 44 nations shook hands and embraced each other openly in a show of solidarity after engaging in fierce but friendly competitions for 16 days.

South Korea's President Kim Dae-jung led Asiad dignitaries in extolling the athletes during the

bird-littered affair that included Asian Games boss Dr. Chung Soon Taek and Mayor Ahn Sang-young of this city by the sea of four million.

"In the name of the Olympic Council of Asia, I offer the Korean people's deepest gratitude and I call upon the youth of Asia to assemble once more in Qatar in 2006," said Kim. "May the youth of Asia celebrate the Asian Games in the spirit of brotherhood and for the good of humanity."

This city is a famous sanctuary of the migratory Korean bird, duria, which were released by the hundreds as a symbol of the homecoming of some 7,000 athletes who competed—"Homecoming" being the theme of the event.

Dr. Chung said he felt sad that the Games had to end while giving particular mention on the presence of the North Koreans.

"I would like to mention the extraordinary reunion and now the separation of young Koreans from both the South and North," said Dr. Chung.

"The friendship and brotherly love created during these Games makes their parting all the more poignant."

He thanked "the four million citizens of Busan who helped make the 14th Asian Games not only the largest ever but also the most successful event in its history."

Success and glory

For his part, Mayor Ahn said the efforts of the citizens of Busan "were as precious as jewels, and each and every one of us became a winner. The success and glory of the Asiad we have just witnessed is what we shed our sweat for, until this moment."

Added Ahn: "I hope the chorus of peace and friendship that started in Busan echoes back in Doha, Qatar, even more strongly."

China will be another power to reckon with anew in Doha in 2006 as it won a record 150 gold medals, although that was dented by its loss to South Korea, 100-102, in the basketball finals. South Korea finished second with 96 golds and Japan third with 44.

The previous record was 132 golds—also recorded by China in 1998 in Bangkok.



MIKEE Cojuangco-Jaworski holds the Philippine flag as she makes a victory ride atop Rustic Rouge after winning the gold medal in the Asian Games individual show jumping on Monday.

Mikee almost did not make it in Busan

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—If not for the intercession of Steve Hontiveros, president of the Philippine Bowling Congress, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski would not have been here.

Hontiveros is a member of the powerful Task Force Asian Games that selected the athletes for the Asiad. "We received a letter from Congressman Cojuangco (Peping) appealing on behalf of Mikee and two others to be included in the delegation," said Hontiveros, a long-time member of the Philippine Olympic Committee Executive Council.

The other two were Michelle Barrera and Paola Cojuangco, who went on to become members of the winning silver team.

Initially, the Task Force named Toni Leviste and Danielle Cojuangco members of the equestrian squad. "After we had diligently studied their records and their rigid training in Europe and Malaysia that lasted for months, we upheld Congressman Cojuangco's appeal," said Hontiveros. "You just don't throw away painstaking efforts exerted by athletes for the sake of flag and country."

The first words uttered yesterday by Peping Cojuangco after his daughter's victory was: "Nakapanalamig!" Said Cojuangco: "Napakaganda ng panalo. Nasulit din lahat ang paghihirap at pagtititiis nila. Kumayod talaga sila nang todo. Tiya-ga. They deserve it."

Mikee left behind her two children to the care of Dodot, Sen. Robert Jaworski's son, while she trained like a spartan in Malaysia for nearly three months.

After giving birth to her second child last December, Mikee began her preparation for the Asiad, starting off with a competition in Australia in March and April. Her training in Malaysia was from July to September.

She made sure she would come here early to acclimatize her horse, arriving with her niece, Michelle, last Sept. 18, four days ahead of the first batch of RP athletes and officials.

"This is for God above all, our countrymen; and for my husband, Dodot, who is celebrating his birthday today," said Mikee. Said Dodot: "This is my best birthday gift ever."



HONTIVEROS



COJUANGCO

Unexpected equestrian gold worth P1.5M

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—For her painful efforts of three months of training in Malaysia, away from home and family, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski's equestrian gold yesterday was worth P1.5 mil-

lion.

That may not mean much for the wealthy Mikee, daughter of former Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco of Tarlac, but just the same, the amount is proof of the robust presence of the Philippine Sports Commission in Philippine

sports.

"We have always supported everybody, whether one is into a sport played by the rich or otherwise," said Eric Buhain, the PSC chair responsible for the P1-million bonus for every gold medalist (the other P500,000 is from

Samsung). "Morally more than financially, we were always by the side of our equestrian performers."

Equestrian's performance surpassed expectations as the country's bet won also the team silver behind Mikee, Toni

UNEXPECTED/A21

'Korea On My Mind'

BUSAN, South Korea—OK now, are you done with that pin giving, pin swapping thing? Trade that shirt for a change, that jacket with your country's flag in it. Have you done your bit in the Auld Lang Syne? Given the guy, gal, next to you last night a hug? Hev, don't be too sure. Last night could be your last chance to do that. The Games happen only once in four years. You might be too old for Doha (Qatar) come 2006.

The screaming, fist-pumping, crying is over. It's back to normal.

Athletes, like owls, need some sleep, too.

I have done my own adieu. And I've said that more than the kimchi, I would miss the cabbies here who make Formula One drivers rookies in speeding. Taxis here fly most of the time seat belts are must-wear. Even when you're seated at the back.

Who won? China you say?

SPECTATOR

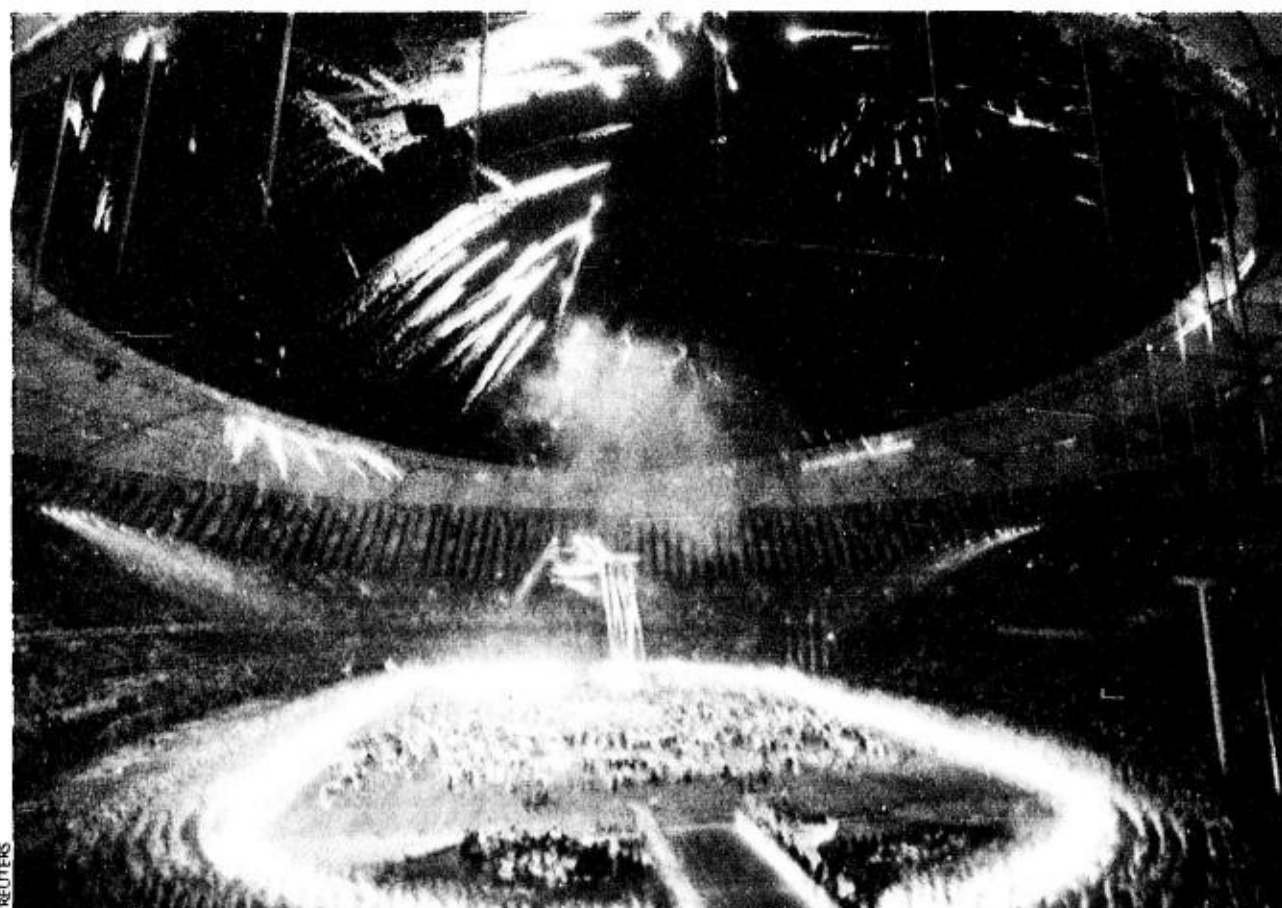
Al S. Mendoza



Oh, I shouldn't have asked that. It's been China all these years. Who can beat population? Nobody beats Mao's Army. The Americans tried to, and they were terribly routed.

The question should have been, who placed second? Still a wrong question. Who can deny that position to Korea? Not when you are in Korea. People here are basically nice. But have them compete in the stadium with you, and it's like tossing in a slave against a lion in Caesar's Rome. The slave fights for freedom, the lion for lunch. If you aren't a Chinese and you are up

KOREA/A21



FIREWORKS light up the sky at the Busan Stadium during the closing ceremony of the 14th Asian Games last night.

FINAL ROUNDUP

Korea cagers do unthinkable vs China

By Phil Brown
AP Writer

BUSAN, South Korea—Seizing a last chance to upstage China at the Asian Games, South Korea did the unthinkable—upsetting the heavily favored Chinese 102-100 in overtime for the men's basketball gold medal.

The South Koreans almost beat the Chinese in women's basketball too on Monday. The host country still came out with four of the final day's seven gold medals.

At the same time the men's basketball team was coming from behind to force overtime against China, Lee Bong-ju, the 2001 Boston marathon winner, won his country's fourth consecutive Asian Games gold medal in the sport. He finished 3 minutes, 43 seconds ahead of Japan's Koji Shimizu.

Two badminton doubles pairs won. Ra Kyung-min and Lee Kyung-won beat China's Gao Ling and Huang Sui 11-8, 11-7 in the women's final, and Lee Dong-soo and Yoo Yong-sung defeated Thailand's Pramote Teerawitana and Tesana Panvisavas 15-11, 15-6 in the men's.

The results cut only slightly into China's huge margin in the overall gold medals race. The Chinese finished with 150—or 35 percent of the total—to 96 for South Korea. Japan was a distant third with 44.

Indonesia, long a power in badminton, finally captured one gold in the sport on the games' final day. Former world No. 1 Taufik Hidayat beat South Korea's 15-7, 15-9 in the men's singles final.

The Philippines captured its third gold of the games when Mikaela Maria Jaworski, riding Rustic Rouge, won a jumpoff against South Korea's Lee Jinkyung of South Korea in individual show jumping.

The last time China lost an Asian Games men's basketball final was against South Korea in 1982.

This year's team, including two players from the National Basketball Association, led 84-71 with slightly more than three minutes left. Lee Kyu-sup's basket in the final seconds of regulation time tied the game at 90.

The Koreans led throughout the five-minute overtime and China's Li Nan missed a desperation shot at the buzzer.

Yao Ming, the NBA's No. 1 draft pick, scored 23 points for China.

In the women's basketball final, 1998 runner-up China looked like an easy winner when it led 63-53 after three quarters. Then South Korea shot ahead 74-67 with a 21-4 run over the last

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

quarter's first 5 1/2 minutes, and its players were wildly celebrating with high-fives.

But the Chinese bounced back and Sui Feifei helped clinch the 80-76 gold-medal victory by hitting a fast-break layup and two free throws in the final three minutes.

Despite its overall dominance here, China still wasn't satisfied with its performance. Its deputy sports minister, Li Furong, said the nation reached world standards in only fencing, cycling, taekwondo, swimming and women's wrestling.

"What I am interested in is the quality of these gold medals," he said.

Meanwhile, women's 1,500-meter gold medalist Sunita Rani and top officials of her Indian team went before the Olympic Council of Asia's medical committee Monday to deny she had taken a banned substance.

Rani tested positive for Nandrolone, which assists muscle-building, in urine samples taken after the 1,500 and 5,000 finals.

Results of secondary tests are expected within the next two days, said medical committee chairman Yoshio Kuroda.

If the positive tests are confirmed, Rani faces being stripped of her gold from the 1,500 and bronze from the 5,000.

"I haven't done anything," Rani said after the meeting.

Indian delegation chief Jagdish Tytler said the Indians told the committee Rani had not taken steroids or any medicine that could produce the positive result.

The 16-day games brought together nearly 7,000 athletes to compete for gold medals in 38 sports. While there were 419 events, the gold total reach 427 because of ties for golds in some gymnastics events and one swimming race.



The 14th Busan Asian Games Mar



WINNER AND LOSERS

South Korean Lee Bong Ju winning the Busan Asiad men's marathon (left photo) while Chinese giants Yao Ming and Bateer Menk look forlorn after their shocking loss to the hosts in the men's basketball final.



'Korea On My Mind'

From page A20

against a Korean, you will end up the lion's meal if the referee is not your brother.

China knows—always knew—how to beat Korea in the Asian Games. It floods events where judges play cameo roles. In events where judges are the stars and not the athletes, China fields its world beaters. No way Korea can match up with them as the hosts have remained Asiad standard.

Thus, with one day left in the 16-day Games, Korea has 90 gold medals for a far second 61 golds behind China.

Japan, known for many years now as a world power like China, seemed disinterested in challenging China this time. It has a modest haul of 44 gold medals for third.

I figured Japan did not send its best to avoid opening old wounds with Korea, which still harbors hatred against the Japanese after Japan occupied Korea some six decades or so ago. It is in Korea where the world's first comfort woman for Japan's Imperial Army during the last war had surfaced.

Every jazzman, jazz lover, sings it: Georgia On My Mind.

Jong Uichico has a revised version of it, though: Korea On My Mind.

"It can be done," he kept saying it the next day his cagers lost by a single point to the Koreans, 69-68, on a triple by Lee Sang Min with almost no time left. "Korea can be beaten."

He said Korea was on his mind the day he was named coach by PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino in January.

"I put all my efforts to beating Korea," said Jong. "The silver was the championship itself."

When Jong's boys lost the won-game against Korea, Kazakhstan got the bronze the next day on a silver platter as the Filipinos were too fagged out to even try to have a taste of it again after winning it in Bangkok four years ago.

"The emotional loss to Korea drained us," said Jong. But, wait a minute, Jong. If Korea can be beaten, why not China, too? Hey, Korea needed to beat us—by a whisker at that—in order for it to advance to the finals. After the Koreans scored a monumental 102-100 upset of China in overtime yesterday, China is basketball giant no more.

Korea On My Mind?

OK but Jong, make this as your disc's flip side please: China's Chain, Chain, Chain. If you know what I mean.

Unexpected... From page A20

Leviste, Danielle Schulze Cojuangco, Michelle Barrera and Paola Cojuangco.

"We had modest financial backing of our equestrian bets," said Buhain, who helped facilitate the shipment of Toni Leviste's horse from Belgium to here.

The 32-year-old PSC chair al-

so did a certification to support a planned legal suit against an airline in Manila for the accident that befell the horse of Danielle, grand daughter of business tycoon Danding Cojuangco, while the horse was being boarded for the trip to this city.

Vence finishes 8th; Ballester ends up 10th

By Roy Luarda

BUSAN, South Korea—Filipino bet Roy Vence and Allan Ballester started in full steam but ran out of fuel yesterday as they finished 8th and 10th, respectively, in the men's marathon, the closing event of the 14th Asian

Games here.

Running side by side, Vence and Ballester stayed with the second wave for the first kilometer before Ballester and eight others broke away starting the 10K mark.

Vence, the Cebuano 2001 KL Southeast Asian Games titlist, was seventh going to the

last five kilometers but faded in the home stretch and crossed the line in two hours, 28 minutes and 51 seconds, 14.7 behind the 1:14.04 effort of the South Korean victor Pong-Ju-Lee.

The 27-year-old Ballester, the national Milo marathon champion, clocked 2:32.12.

Django is more than a champion

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante is much more than a billiards champion. He is above all a symbol, an athlete who became great not only because of his outstanding performance at the pool table, but also because of his love of country. Django Bustamante is indeed one of a kind.

In Philippine sports today, there is no more patriotism or love of country. Many players refuse to join national delegations if there is no money for them, but not Django. In the 14th Asian Games in Busan, he readily accepted the offer (from the Billiards and Snooker Congress headed by Ernie Fajardo) to play for the Philippines even if he had to skip the more lucrative US Open where many world-class players whom he had beaten before were to see action.

A last-minute addition to the Asiad lineup, Django nevertheless played true to form and, with Puyat Sports teammate Antonio "Nickoy" Lining, won the 9-ball doubles

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



gold medal, actually the second gold for the country after four-time World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno and RJ Bautista earlier topped the men's doubles in bowling.

"I played for the Philippines and the Filipino people," said 38-year-old Django, who, only months ago, lost 8-month-old daughter Mariel to illness. "I dedicate this victory to her. I know she is very proud of me."

Django's God-given talent was astonishing from the start. He wielded the cue stick

at an early age, standing atop wooden beer cartons when he was 10 in pool halls near his sister's restaurant in Tarlac City. A school dropout like his idol and mentor, Efren "Bata" Ryes, Django had the good fortune to grow with helpful friends, a patient teacher in Reyes and avid patrons Popit and Putch Puyat, the moving spirit behind the enormous popularity of billiards in the country.

Only two days after winning the Asiad gold, Django went on to win the Baltimore 7-Ball Championship in the United States by beating former World Champion Milka Immonen of Finland in the finals and earning the fat paycheck of \$25,000. Last July in the 2002 World Pool Championship in Cardiff, he played and finished the tournament for the sake of flag and country, landing a respectable second to American multi-champion Earl Strickland even though he was burdened with the death of daughter Mariel. Django Bustamante is indeed a breed apart.

adidas
adidas 14th Asian Games medal tally

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
China	150	84	74	308
South Korea	96	60	84	240
Japan	44	73	72	189
Kazakhstan	20	26	30	76
Uzbekistan	15	12	24	51
Thailand	14	19	10	43
India	11	12	13	36
Chinese Taipei	10	17	25	52
N. Korea	6	11	13	30
Iran	6	14	14	34
Saudi Arabia	6	1	1	8
Malaysia	5	16	10	31
Singapore	5	10	10	25
Indonesia	3	10	10	23
Vietnam	4	7	7	18
Hong Kong	4	11	11	26
Oman	4	8	8	20
PHILIPPINES	3	16	16	35
Bahrain	3	5	5	13
Kuwait	3	5	5	13
Sri Lanka	3	3	3	9
Pakistan	3	6	6	15
Myanmar	3	6	6	15
Kyrgyzstan	3	6	6	15
Turkmenistan	3	6	6	15
Mongolia	3	12	12	27
Lebanon	3	1	1	5
Tajikistan	3	1	1	5
Macao	3	1	1	5
UAE	3	1	1	5
Bangladesh	3	1	1	5
Syria	3	1	1	5
Nepal	3	1	1	5
Laos	3	1	1	5
Jordan	3	1	1	5
Burundi	3	1	1	5
Yemen	3	1	1	5
Palastine	3	1	1	5

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PHILIPPINES

Angels crush Twins, make World Series

ANAHEIM—The Anaheim Angels clinched their place in the World Series by crushing the Minnesota Twins 13-5 to win the American League Championship Series 4-1 on Sunday.

Anaheim, who will meet either the San Francisco Giants or the St. Louis Cardinals, will be making its first appearance in the World Series in its 41-year history. The Angels will also be the first wild-card team to represent the AL.

Until Sunday, Anaheim's hopes of reaching the World Series had been frustrated. The Angels were one victory away in 1982 and one strike away in 1986.

In 1995, the Angels allowed an 11-game lead to dissipate, then lost to Seattle in a one-game playoff to enter the postseason.

"I couldn't feel better for a group of guys anywhere," Anaheim manager Mike Scioscia said. "What an effort they gave."

"We play for the feeling of playing this game, not the money. That's what the passion that our guys have is all about." Outfielder Tim Salmon

demonstrated that passion when he grabbed the league championship trophy from the clubhouse and ran a victory lap by himself in front of the ecstatic, standing room-only crowd of 44,835.

"This club has been my family for six months every year, and that's 10 years," said Salmon, the most veteran Angel and the 1993 AL rookie of the year.

"I felt we put to rest a lot of those demons when we made the playoffs, but this just keeps piling dirt on those demons." Adam Kennedy hit three home runs, including a game-winning, three-run drive, for Anaheim.

Kennedy, who went four-for-four and drove in five runs, tied a postseason record for most homers by one player in a game. He was named the ALCS MVP.

The second baseman gave Anaheim a 6-5 lead in the bottom of the seventh when he hit an 0-2 pitch off reliever Johan Santana into the right-field stands. Scott Spiezio and Bengie Molina began the inning with back-to-back singles.

"In my first at-bat, I was trying to be aggressive," Kennedy said. "The other two were two-strike counts and I wasn't trying to do too much,

just put the ball in play."

"They left a couple of curveballs up and I didn't miss 'em." The Angels sent 15 batters to the plate in that inning to score 10 runs on 10 hits, a walk and a hit batter against four Minnesota relievers.

The 10 runs and 10 hits tied the postseason single-inning record set in each category by the Philadelphia Athletics in the 1929 World Series.

"It's a tough lineup all the way through," Minnesota manager Ron Gardenhire said.

"They try to cut their swings down and they've got great RBI guys in the middle. When you make a mistake to them, they'll whack you." Minnesota had taken a 5-3 lead in the top of the seventh by pooling three hits, a walk and a sacrifice fly into three runs.

Rookie reliever Francisco Rodriguez, who pitched 2/3 of an inning and walked one batter, received his second victory of the series and his fourth of the postseason.

Spiezio and Salmon each went three-for-four, with Spiezio hitting a home run, scoring three runs and driving in three more.

Minnesota's AJ Pierzynski went three-for-three with an RBI and a run scored.

Reuter



THE ANAHEIM Angels pile on top of each other after defeating the Minnesota Twins, 13-5, to win the American League Championship Series, 4-1, in Anaheim Sunday. The Angels advance to the World Series and will play the winner of the National League Championship Series between the San Francisco Giants and St. Louis Cardinals.

AFP

Giants trample Cardinals, move a win from NL title

SAN FRANCISCO—Benito Santiago hit Rick White's sinker deep over the left field wall for a two-run homer in the bottom of the eighth inning to help the San Francisco Giants beat the St. Louis Cardinals 4-3 on Sunday.

The victory gave the Giants a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven National League Championship Series for the right to face the Anaheim Angels in the World Series.

Fighting off a strong pitching performance by Cardinals starter Andy Benes, the Giants clawed their way back from a 2-0 deficit.

After reliever White intentionally walked Barry Bonds with one out in the eighth, veteran Santiago sat a 3-2 pitch down the middle and crushed it into the bleachers.

"It was a dream come true," said Santiago. "When I hit the

ball, I knew I hit it hard."

The time before that they struck me out with the same pitch and this time it was 3-2 and I was looking for it."

Cards manager Tony La Russa said he would walk Bonds again to get to Santiago, if given another opportunity.

"Bonds is the most dangerous hitter in the game now and it's tough to walk into the clubhouse

with giving him the chance to beat you," La Russa said. "Santiago has been very tough but it's a little easier to take."

The game began as a classic match-up between two wily pitchers with the 35-year-old Benes dueling against 28-year-old Livan Hernandez, who is undefeated in postseason play.

The Cardinals immediately jumped on Hernandez in the first

inning when second baseman Fernando Vina doubled to open the game, Edgar Renteria sacrificed him to third and Jim Edmonds drove in Vina with a deep grounder.

Albert Pujols walked, JD Drew singled and then Tino Martinez drove in Pujols with a broken-bat single to give St. Louis a 2-0 lead.

Hernandez allowed hits to the lead-off men in both the second

and third but pitched himself out of trouble.

The Cuban then settled down in the fourth and fifth.

In the top of the sixth, the Cardinals' Eli Marrero and Mike Matheny hit back-to-back singles with two outs but instead of pinch hitting for Benes, La Russa let him bat and the pitcher grounded out weakly to short-stop.

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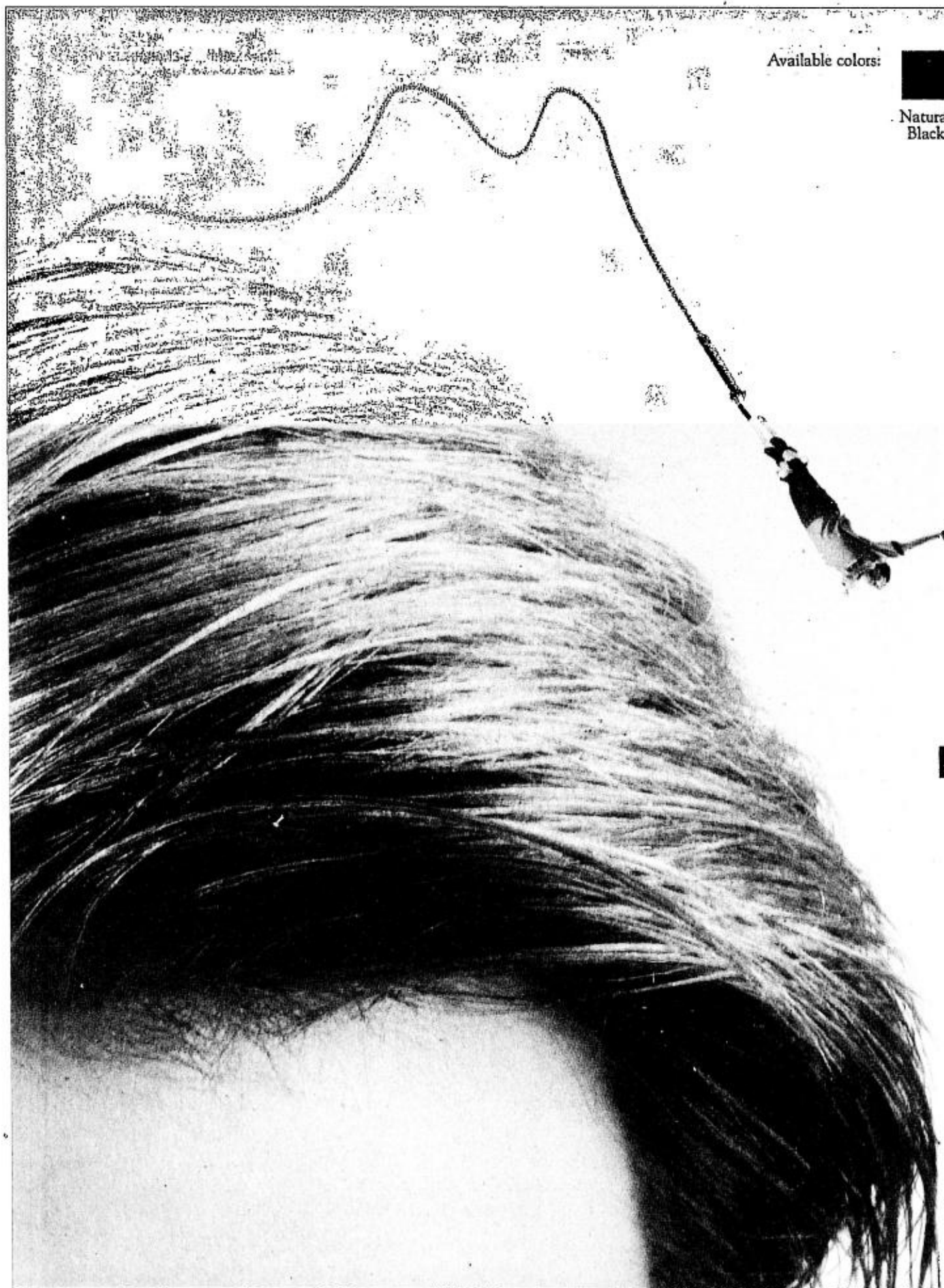
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First Gentleman's Golf Circuit gets going today

LOCAL professionals return to competitive action as the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit blasts off today with a full force of 105 players going for the big slices of the P500,000 prize money at the well-kept Sta. Elena Golf Club course in Cabuyao, Laguna.

It will be the first full professional event in nearly two years and the rusty pros are all itching to jump on the cash available on the table in the kickoff leg of a 12-tournament nationwide tour that will reach as far south as Zamboanga.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and Comelec chair Ben Abalos, also the commissioner of the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines, will hit the ceremonial balls preceding the first tee-off at 7 a.m.

The joint efforts of Arroyo, whose First Gentleman Foundation Inc. is bankrolling the Tour's initial salvo, and Abalos have succeeded in perking up a renewed interest on pro golf from various sectors.

The new circuit is being organized by the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines Inc. headed by its president Ogie Manalo which best ex-

plains the impressive lineup of exclusive clubs tapped as host venues. It is also sponsored by WG&A Super Ferry and Aliw Broadcasting.

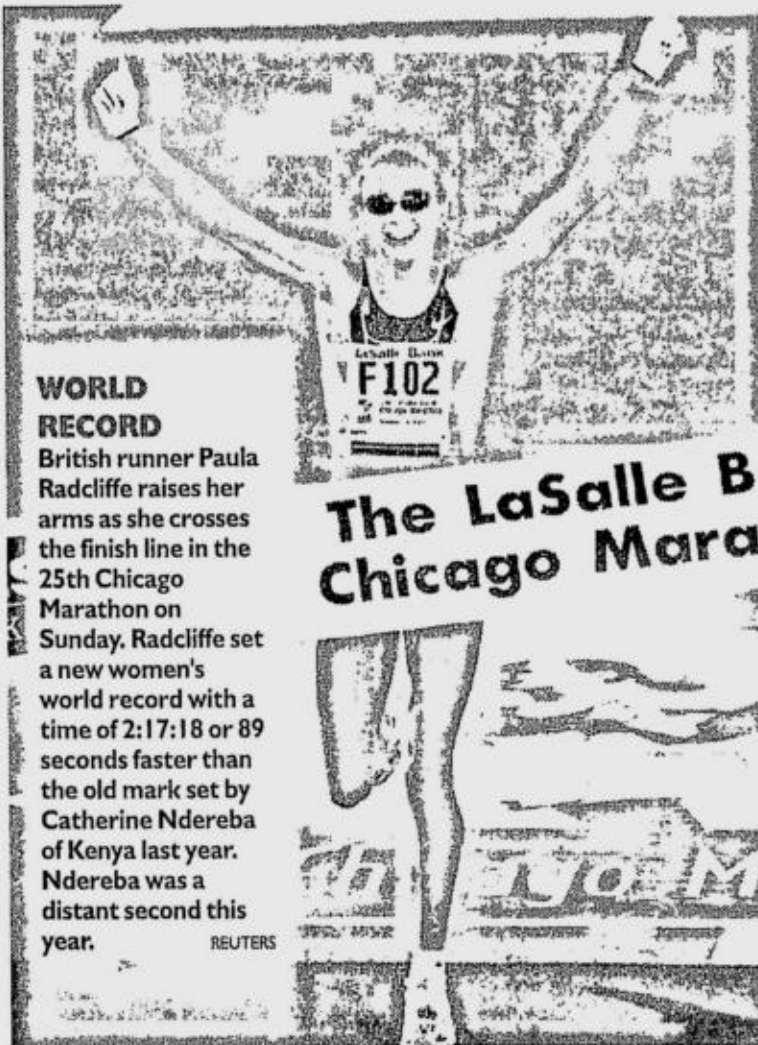
While Cassius Casas, Mars Pucay, Rodrigo Cuello and Antonio Lascuna will be there to be at vanguard of the veterans who are all lacking in tournament exposure.

Dizon turned pro after he completed his national tour of duty in the just-concluded Asian Games in Busan—a stint LaO decided to forego for him to keep his focus on his pro tour preparations. LaO, in fact, proved that he's the player to watch when he placed second to Lascuna in the pro-am side-event held last Sunday.

Not just for his topping the pro-am but also based on recent performances, Lascuna appears the pro with the game to draw first blood. He had spent the past two months training in his home course in Apo, Davao and is said to be steadily breaking par in practice.

As the dub pro, Pucay is tipped to figure well despite his late arrival from Johor Bahru, Malaysia where he and Danny Zarate lost a trip to the World Cup in Mexico in a three-team playoff.

Zarate is not in the field since he will be in the Macau Open leg of the Asian Tour this week together with Gerald Rosales.

**WORLD RECORD**

British runner Paula Radcliffe raises her arms as she crosses the finish line in the 25th Chicago Marathon on Sunday. Radcliffe set a new women's world record with a time of 2:17:18 or 89 seconds faster than the old mark set by Catherine Ndereba of Kenya last year. Ndereba was a distant second this year.

REUTERS

Manila Golf sets up semis vs Forest Hills

MANILA Golf, pulling off an unexpected sweep of its home games, squeaked past favored Alabang, 5-3, over the weekend to forge a semifinals duel with defending champion Forest Hills in the 2002 Federation Golf League.

The Forbes Park golfers celebrated the return of Alex Prieto and Manny Chan from sick bay and Richie Garcia from a long vacation to score a crunching 4-0 win in their home turf that more than made up for the 1-3 loss they suffered when the match transferred to Alabang the next day.

Prieto, fully recovered from a bruised rib that sidelined him for weeks, teamed up with OV Espiritu to clinch the aggregate point, JP Reyes and Joey Yujuico partnered for the high-low victory

while Garcia and Dennis Valdez took the scramble tieff.

Chan, the golfing lawyer who is just getting back on the groove after undergoing kidney surgery, joined hands with Johan Papa to deliver the fourth point with a 1 up win in best ball.

The home sweep was too decisive that Manila Golf needed just a draw at Alabang to take the match. And the duo of Jojo Guingona-Jonathan Papa provided not just a draw but a full point by winning the scramble.

"The strategy of shuffling our men to produce three strong teams paid off, we're just lucky to have avoided a playoff," said Manila Golf captain Arsenio Laurel.

Jong Arcano

Sinfuego team wins

RICHARD Sinfuego powered his teammates to victory while Antonio Lascuna banked some extra cash for the long season ahead as the individual winner in the pro-am competition ushering in the Sta. Elena leg of the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit recently.

Sinfuego partnered amateurs Ian Fenton, Gerry Meriguet and Philip Molhant to a net 20-under-par 52, finishing four strokes ahead of Juanito Pagunsan and his Japanese teammates Hiroshi Endo, Hiroyuki Ueda and Taketo Suzuki.

Nene Antonio's team also made up of Nelson Irasga, Ahbee Tayao and his son Kevin settled for third place after losing to Pagunsan's team in the countback.

Lascuna, showing why he's among the pros to watch out for in the pro circuit bankrolled by the

First Gentleman Foundation Inc. which is set to be launched tomorrow, fired a three-under-par 69 for the best score of the day.

Lascuna edged brand-new pro Cookie La'O by just a stroke with Rodolfo finishing third with a 71. Lascuna won P4,000, La'O P3,000 and Cuello P2,000.

Individual winners for the amateur entries were Fenton as the net champion and Bryan Cockrell as the gross titlist.

Sta. Elena president Edward Tiu led the amateur field while reigning Philippine Open champion Rick Gibson made a special appearance in the pro-am together with Cassius Casas. Gibson had a 76 while Casas scored 79.

Tiu and the Sta. Elena board assembled the 30 teams for the pro-am which raised the entry fees for the pros in the FG circuit series opener.

Express Tour elims slated

THE SEARCH for the 84 best riders in the land set to vie for the P1 million top prize in the Air21 Express Tour 2003 reels off with a series of qualifying races early next month.

RP cycling team standout Victor Espiritu, Express Tour of Calabarzon top finishers Santy Barnachea and Arnel Quirimit will lead more than 300 riders in the pre-qualifying races on Nov. 10, 17, 24, Dec. 1 and 8 when they try to break the Individual Time Trial challenge of 40 kilometers per hour.

The Air21 Express Tour selection committee will only choose the top 120 riders, who will compete in a two-level final qualifying designed to extract the best from the crop.

In the final qualifying races, the top 120 riders will be pruned down to 100 in a massed start race slated

Dec. 14 before finally picking the 84 survivors in the 45-kph ITT challenge on Dec. 15.

Application forms are available at the Professional Cycling Association of the Philippines at the Amoranto Stadium in Quezon City. Deadline for registration is Oct. 31. For inquiries call PCAP president Paquito Rivas or Nel at 879-4374.

Aspirants in the pre-qualifying races coming from Central Luzon and Nueva Ecija will compete on Nov. 10; Bicol, Calabarzon and Metro Manila (Nov. 17); Ilocandia and Cordillera (Nov. 24); Pangasinan and Cagayan Valley (Dec. 1); and East, West Visayas and Mindanao (Dec. 8).

The 84 riders will be known as "The Express Riders 2003." They will do everything just to get the P200,000 individual prize and the P1

million at stake in the team event during the 14-day cycling adventure tentatively scheduled April 25-May 11.

For its grandeur, next year's tour even enticed the past heroes of the fabled summer racing spectacle, which came back after a three-year hiatus with the help of Air21 bigwigs Bert Lina and Lito Alvarez.

Carlo Guieb, a two-time King of the Mountain and many-time tour champion, has reactivated himself from retirement along with former tour winner and top Southern Tagalog rider Renato Dolosa.

The 84 riders will be divided into 12 regional teams, namely, Cagayan Valley, Ilocandia, Cordillera, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Central Luzon, Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Bicol, East Visayas, West Visayas and Mindanao.

McDyess out

NEW YORK—The New York Knicks suffered a devastating blow Saturday night, when power forward Antonio McDyess broke his left kneecap in a NBA preseason loss to the Phoenix Suns.

McDyess will be out indefinitely after breaking his left kneecap, the team announced Sunday. A year ago Saturday, he underwent surgery to repair a partially torn patella tendon in the same knee and missed all but 10 games during the 2001-02 season.

AFP



15 days to NBA opening on Oct. 30. Did you know that only two NBA teams didn't have a single player averaging more than 15 points per game last season—the New Jersey Nets and the Denver Nuggets, led by Kenyon Martin (14.8) and Juwan Howard (14.6), respectively.

SPORTSWATCH**Brazil spikers world champs**

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Brazil defeated Russia 3-2 on Sunday to win the World Volleyball Championship for the first time in its history. In a match that swung back and forth, Brazil finally won 25-23, 25-27, 20-25, 25-23, 15-13. The crucial point came after 2 hours and 13 minutes of play, when Giovane produced a perfect serve that flew between two Russian players at the net and landed just inside the sideline. Brazil's top player was captain Nalbert Bitencourt, who notched up 23 points for his team. Serguei Tetiukhine was Russia's most effective player in the final, scoring 23 points.

AP

Pak rallies, tops LPGA tourney

MOBILE, Alabama—Se Ri Pak birdied four of the last five holes Sunday to overtake Carin Koch and successfully defend her title in the Mobile LPGA Tournament of Champions. Pak closed with a 6-under 66, eagling the par-5 fourth hole and taking control with four straight birdies on Nos. 14-17. She finished with a four-stroke margin over Koch and Catriona Matthew. The 25-year-old South Korean star had a tournament-record 20-under 268 total on Magnolia Grove's Crossings Course on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. She earned \$122,000 for her fourth victory of the year and 17th in five full seasons on the LPGA Tour.

AP

NZ golfer snatches Classic title

LAS VEGAS—New Zealand's Phil Taturangi swept past fourth-round leader David Duval with five birdies on the front nine Sunday, then added the same number on the back to get to 29 under and win the Invensys Classic. Then he waited nervously on the driving range as Stuart Appleby, Jeff Sluman and Jim Furyk all missed birdie tries on the 18th hole that would have forced a playoff. "I didn't think for one moment I was going to win the golf tournament today," Taturangi said. The New Zealander who has struggled both with his game and his health earned \$900,000, more than he had won his entire career before this year.



AP TATAURANGI

Clijsters turns back Hantuchova

FILDERSTADT, Germany—Kim Clijsters captured her eighth career title at the Porsche Grand Prix Sunday, charging back from a set down to beat Daniela Hantuchova, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. Clijsters needed two hours before the Slovakian netted a forehand return to end the match at the US\$625,000 event, where she also came back from a set down in ousting France's Amelie Mauresmo and Lindsay Davenport. Afterwards, the Belgian player chose a new Porsche sports car for winning instead of US\$97,000. "I'm amazed I'm still standing after all these three-set matches. I'm really tired — all I want to do is lie down in the car," Clijsters said.

AP

French outsider stuns Kuerten

LYON, France—French outsider Paul Henri-Mathieu shocked Brazilian former world number one Gustavo Kuerten on Sunday to take the \$761,000 ATP tournament here, beating the three-time French Open winner 4-6, 6-3, 6-1. Mathieu, 20, has come on leaps and bounds in recent weeks and roared into the world top 50 with his first career win at the Kremlin Cup only last week, ousting Russian top seed Marat Safin on the way. But he can hardly have expected to take his second ATP title and another big scalp with it so quickly.

AFP

Kramnik loses game five to Fritz

MANAMA, Bahrain—Einstein Classical Chess Champion Vladimir Kramnik overlooked a simple tactic in a difficult position on Sunday and lost the fifth game of the "Brains in Bahrain" match to the computer Deep Fritz. Despite the loss, Kramnik still leads the million-dollar match 3-2. Fritz's operator, Mathias Feist, was not optimistic about the machine's chances in the eight-game match. "I think Kramnik will recover." For the first time in the match, the Deep Fritz team chose to open with 1.d4. They are not allowed to change the program itself during the match, but may make changes to the program's opening book.

AFP

Favre sparkles in Packers' victory

FOXBORO, Massachusetts—Brett Favre outplayed New England's Tom Brady, throwing three touchdown passes to lead the Packers to their fourth straight victory Sunday, 28-10. Favre now has 301 TD passes for his career, moving him past John Elway into third place on the career list. Only Dan Marino (420) and Fran Tarkenton (342) have more. Favre also made his 163rd straight start, a record for NFL quarterbacks. The Packers (5-1) became the latest team to punish the Patriots' run defense, as Ahman Green gained 136 yards. He also scored his first two TDs of the season — on an 8-yard reception and a 1-yard run.

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Sponsoring the event are Sagupaan Super Feeds, Pagcor and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug Inc.

"More than 70 fights are lined up, so please come on time to avail of choice seats because we are expecting a jam-packed crowd today. And what makes this event doubly exciting is that winners in recent stag derbies will be fielded today, so

watch out for them," derby manager Rey Lee said.

Derby hosts are OPMI president Vic Yu and Bicol sportsman Alex Tang.

Powerhouse entries are entered in this grand battle of big-time cockers and breeders who belong to such respected organizations like Ucap, NCA, Balbina Group, Miga, GRBAN, NGBA and LGBA.

Last week, Yu's Sir Vincent emerged as solo champion in the "4th Ucap Phoenix 7-Stag Derby" after tallying six points.

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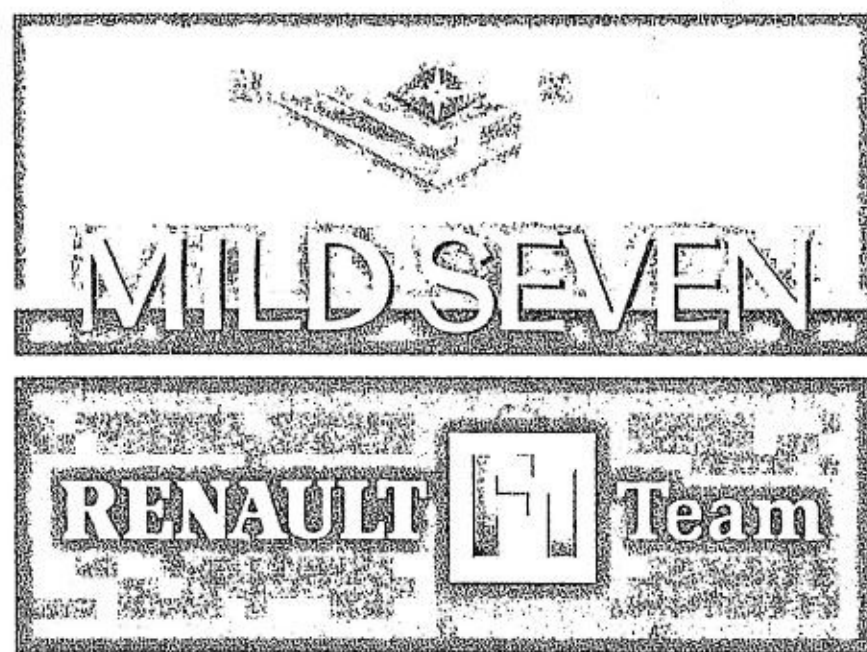
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- All entries must be received not later than November 8, 2002, 12 midnight. JT International (Philippines), Inc. and its agents will have no responsibility for lost, illegible, incomplete, mutilated or late entries.
- The draw will be held on November 9, 2002. Grand Prize to be drawn by Mild Seven Renault F1 driver Jenson Button in the presence of a DOH-BFAD representative. **WINNERS SHOULD BE AT THE VENUE DURING THE DRAW.** The following prizes will be drawn:
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- In case the winner fails to present the original and valid identification documents, the winner should present the following:
 - A sworn affidavit executed by at least two (2) disinterested persons attesting to his/her identity; and
 - Certification from the responsible Municipality/City Official verifying that he/she is a resident of the said municipality/city.
- In cases where the winner, for justifiable reasons cannot personally claim his/her prize, he/she can send a proxy on his/her behalf. The proxy should present a letter of authorization duly signed for by the winner. This should be submitted with the notification telegram sent by JT International (Philippines), Inc. The proxy should also bring two (2) original and valid documents to prove his/her identity.
- An entrant can only win once. If a name is drawn more than once, the winner will receive the prize of a higher value and a winner for the other prize will be re-drawn.
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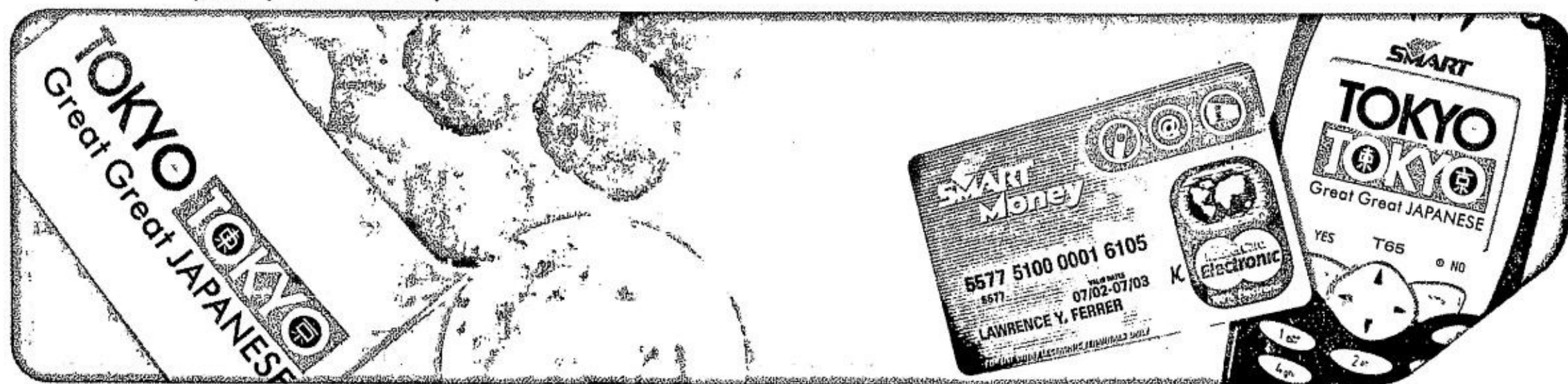
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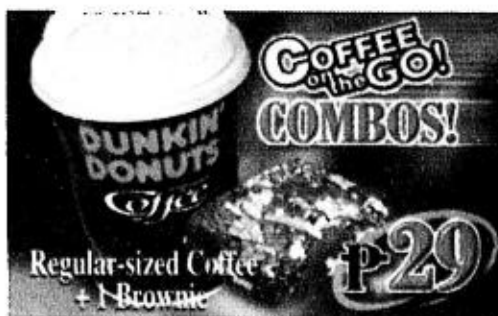
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- Only smokers, 18 years old and above (as of September 20, 2002) who are residents of Greater Manila Area (GMA) can enter the Mild Seven Renault F1 raffle promo.
- To enter the draw, write down your name, address, age (as of September 20, 2002) and signature at the back of any empty pack of Mild Seven (regular or lights).
- Only genuine and original Mild Seven flip top box packs - imported from Japan, purchased in the Philippines and bearing the Philippine Government health warning, excise stamp and with complete information requested in item 3, will be accepted as valid entries.
- No photocopies or counterfeit Mild Seven packs will be allowed. Once submitted, all Mild Seven packs will become the property of JT International (Philippines), Inc.
- Send your entries to: Wishcraft Creative Events, # 17 San Pablo Street, Bldg. Kapitolyo, Pasig City, 1603 or drop it off at The Fort on November 8 till 12 mn.
- All entries must be received not later than November 8, 2002, 12 midnight. JT International (Philippines), Inc. and its agents will have no responsibility for lost, illegible, incomplete, mutilated or late entries.
- The draw will be held on November 9, 2002. Grand Prize to be drawn by Mild Seven Renault F1 driver Jenson Button in the presence of a DOH-BFAD representative. **WINNERS SHOULD BE AT THE VENUE DURING THE DRAW.** The following prizes will be drawn:
 - 1 - Grand Prize of a 3-Day, 2-Night Trip for two to the Sepang F1 Circuit, Malaysia plus tickets to the Race Day only (includes airfare, travel taxes, hotel accommodations, and pocket money)
 - 7 - Mild Seven Renault F1 Racing Bags
 - 7 - Mild Seven Renault F1 Umbrellas
 - 7 - Mild Seven Renault F1 Jackets
- Securing of travel documents (i.e. passport) shall be the responsibility of the winner. All travel-related taxes will be shouldered by JT International (Philippines), Inc.
- The names of the winners will be published in two of the leading newspapers on November 17, 2002. Winners will be notified via telegram as to when and where they can claim their prizes.
- Prizes will only be rewarded to the person whose name appears on the winning entry. Prizes not claimed within 30 days from publication of the winners, or notification of winners, whichever comes later, will be forfeited with the written approval of the DOH-BFAD.
- In claiming a prize, the winner must present the notification telegram and two (2) original and valid identification documents (driver's license, passport, NBI clearance, birth certificate).
- In case the winner fails to present the original and valid identification documents, the winner should present the following:
 - 13.1 A sworn affidavit executed by at least two (2) disinterested persons attesting to his/her identity, and
 - 13.2 Certification from the responsible Municipality/City Official verifying that he/she is a resident of the said municipality/city.
- In cases where the winner, for justifiable reasons cannot personally claim his/her prize, he/she can send a proxy on his/her behalf. The proxy should present a letter of authorization duly signed for by the winner. This should be submitted with the notification telegram sent by JT International (Philippines), Inc. The proxy should also bring two (2) original and valid documents to prove his/her identity.
- An entrant can only win once. If a name is drawn more than once, the winner will receive the prize of a higher value and a winner for the other prize will be re-drawn.
- Prizes are not transferable or convertible to cash.
- All decisions of JT International (Philippines), Inc. and its agencies are final and no objections will be entertained.
- Employees of JT International (Philippines), Inc., their affiliates, distributors, dealers, suppliers, advertising and promotional agencies, and DOH-BFAD, as well as their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity, are not eligible to participate in the promotion.

GRAND PRIZE TO BE DRAWN BY JENSON BUTTON

FOR AUDIENCES 18 YEARS OLD AND ABOVE
Per DOH-BFAD permit No. 0873 Series of 2002

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SMART
Simply Amazing!

Widow accuses SC of land grabbing

By Michael Lim Ubac

A 70-YEAR-OLD old widow, whose 78 parcels of land was taken from her during the Marcos regime, has accused the Supreme Court's Third Division of sanctioning "land grabbing" after it refused to recognize her ownership of the land.

Florentina T. Entoma, whose protracted legal battle to reclaim the land lasted for over 20 years, has asked the high court justices to hear her case because she said the Third Division missed the point that her land was illegally taken from her family by the Marcos regime, through the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), in 1976.

Through her lawyer Mario D. Ortiz, Entoma said that "this honorable court has, perhaps, committed, serious error in refusing to give any probative value to such evidence which, all in all, is tantamount to deprivation of petitioner's property without due process of law."

Ortiz said that instead of delving on the merits of the case, the Third Division tackled technical issues such as forum-shopping. He said that the high court should have addressed the real issue involved—that is the ownership of the property.

"Technically, this is land grabbing to say the least," Ortiz added.

In 1974 the Entomas, through a family firm registered as Lapulapu Development and Housing Corp. (LLDHC), entered into a project and loan agreement with GSIS, which agreed to extend a loan of P25 million to LLDHC for developing and selling to GSIS members its 78 parcels of land (423, 117 square meters) in Marigondon, Lapulapu City.

To implement the agreement, GSIS extended to LLDHC a medium-term loan of P2.5-million of which P710,400 was released. To ensure payment of the loan, the 78 parcels of land was mortgaged to GSIS.

But GSIS said that LLDHC failed to develop the property and defaulted in the loan payment so that it foreclosed the property despite protests from the Entomas. The GSIS, as lone bidder during the auction of the property, then purchased the disputed land for P1.02 million.

Ortiz said that "the property was illegally and immorally sold to the respondent (Group Management Corp. in 1980) for a measly sum of only P631,212, and worse, the purchase price is payable in three installments."

He said that because of "apparent inherent irregularities" in the sale, the Commission of Audit Resident Auditor disapproved the transfer of the land to

GMC.

Since GMC failed to appeal the COA decision within six months, the disapproval of the questioned deed of conditional sale "became final, executory and immutable," Ortiz added.

In April 1980, LLDHC filed a complaint for annulment of foreclosure with writ of mandatory injunction with the Manila Regional Trial Court against the GSIS. But 9 years later, in 1989, GMC lodged a case with the Lapulapu RTC to compel GSIS to honor the voided contract of sale.

Ortiz said that GMC was the one guilty of forum-shopping because it filed a case with the Lapulapu RTC after the Manila RTC denied its motion for intervention.

Ortiz claimed that the GMC action in the Lapulapu RTC was barred by the principle of res judicata, which forbids the reopening of the matter once judicially determined by competent authority, including quasi-judicial bodies like COA.

In Feb. 1992, despite a pending case with the Manila RTC, the Lapulapu court issued a favorable ruling to GMC, ordering GSIS to deliver the property to GMC.

'The property was illegally and immorally sold to the respondent for a measly sum of only P631,212'

An appeal lodged by the GSIS and LLDHC were denied.

But in May 1994, the Manila RTC annulled the foreclosure of the property, and ordered the Register of Deeds of Lapulapu to issue new certificates of title to LLDHC.

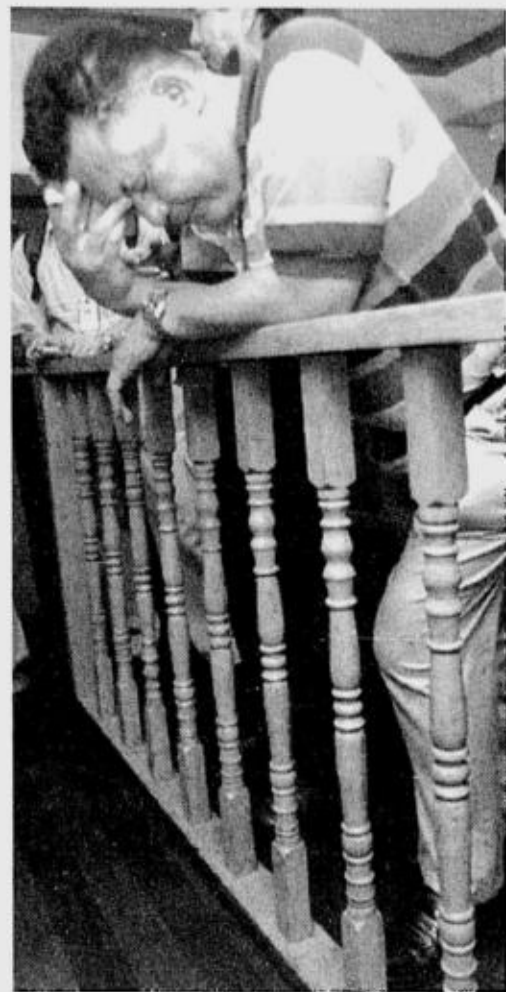
It also ordered LLDHC to pay P9 million to GSIS for its loan.

In 1997, LLDHC paid a total of P17 million to GSIS, including interest and charges. But the legal battle did not stop there. Several other petitions were filed with the Court of Appeals and the SC, until the case finally reached the Third Division.

In a 24-page decision on Sept. 9, the Third Division said the adverse rulings of the Lapulapu court and the CA had become final after LLDHC failed to file a timely petition for review with the appellate court.

It also ruled that the LLDHC committed forum-shopping in suing twice before the CA and thrice before the SC, "alleging substantially the same facts and circumstances, raising essentially the same issues, and praying for almost identical reliefs for the annulment of the decision rendered by the Lapulapu court."

The Third Division added that the judgment of the Manila RTC did not nullify the decision of the Lapulapu court, saying "courts of coequal and coordinate jurisdiction may not interfere with or pass upon each other's orders or processes."



SCAM SUSPECT

Former PNP Zamboanga Training Commander Col. Ricardo Sison bows his head in shame after he is charged with syndicated estafa for his alleged involvement in the multi-billion peso insurance and pyramid scam.

ERIK ARAZAS

'Malonzo behind Gotesco land scam'

By Tina Santos

TWO OF Caloocan's solons and a former mayor are pointing to Mayor Rey Malonzo as the one behind the P700-million-peso Gotesco land scam.

Representatives Enrico "Recom" Echivarri and Edgar Erice, in separate interviews, both denied they had active roles in the questionable land deal with the Gotesco Investments Inc., which owns and operates the Ever Gotesco Grand Central Mall, and pointed to Malonzo.

The names of Echivarri and Erice surfaced following revelations made by former Caloocan City Mayor Macario "Boy" Asistio accusing the two solons, Malonzo and other officials who sold the 2.2685 hectare prime lot where Cecilio Apostol elementary School once stood.

Malonzo immediately denied involvement in the anomaly, saying he had disapproved on several occasions the sale of the property.

Echivarri vowed to bare everything he knows about the scam, adding that it is Malonzo who knows every twist and turn of the



MALONZO

land deal.

Echivarri served as secretary to mayor Malonzo when Gotesco offered to buy the property in 1995. He admitted that he was aware when the GII offered for the second time (after the original attempt was disapproved by the Commission on Audit during the Asistio administration) to buy the property.

"I only referred (the offer) to the legal officer for legal opinion, that's only my participation," Echivarri said.

He lashed back at Malonzo, insisting that it is the mayor who

should be held liable.

Erice was a member of the city council when it passed a resolution in 1997 authorizing Malonzo, as mayor, to negotiate the sale of the land.

But Erice said that Malonzo had vetoed the resolution even if he had urged the city council, through an official letter, to pass it. He said Malonzo committed the so-called sin of omission when he vetoed the ordinance he himself pushed to be passed, hence the apparent failure to collect the P200 million as proceeds from the supposed sale of the property.

Erice, however, said that though Malonzo is liable, it is Asistio who should also be made accountable because "he started it all."

"This is all his fault. He started all this mess. It was during his term when the property was leased to Gotesco for 25 years. The contract was renewable for another 25 years, exclusively to Gotesco. He leased the property practically for a lifetime," Erice said.

He said that Malonzo's liability was caused by the mayor's failure

to pursue the collection of taxes and rentals from the GII.

Asistio, in a five-page position paper, copies of which were obtained by the INQUIRER, insisted he should not be included in the Senate's recommendation as among those who should be charged since the contract he entered into with the GII through its president-owner Jose Go in September 1990 was terminated a long time ago.

"I am the one pushing for the filing of graft and corruption case against Malonzo and members of the city council including, Erice, who is now a congressman, and records would show it. I have all the documents to prove that all my claims are true and valid," said Asistio in a phone interview.

He tagged Malonzo as "the mastermind" of the scam, adding that the mayor is a "liar" and a "thief."

He said that aside from Malonzo, Erice and Echivarri, city legal officer Nestor Francisco, former city councilors Oscar Malapitan, Angel de Guzman, Florencio Dolatre and Chito Abel should also be rapped for graft for "giving unwarranted benefit to Gil."

Galas police chief relieved of post

By Alcuin Papa

THE COMMANDER of the Galas Police Station in Quezon City was relieved of his post after five members of the police station failed to present themselves for investigation in connection with the death of an army reservist.

Chief Insp. Bart Bustamante, spokesperson of the Central Police District, said Supt. Armando Amparo was relieved when he failed to present five members of the Galas Police Station Drug Enforcement Unit for investigation after they were accused of salvaging Cresenciano "Cris" Gonzales.

CPD Director Senior Supt. Napoleon Castro had given Amparo until last Saturday to present the five suspects—Police Officers 1 Henry Garcia, Noel Garcia and Joseph Mike Prado, and a certain Gadal and one Velasco.

Gonzales, a member of the UP Vanguard and a resident of Mariano Cuenco Street in Barangay Sta. Teresita, Banawe, Quezon

City, was found dead last Wednesday along Mindanao Extension in Fairview.

The victim's relatives claimed policemen had abducted Gonzales from his home before his body was found stuffed inside a drum and burned.

Witnesses said that the five policemen conducted an operation in the area where Gonzales lives against a drug dealer known only as Richard.

Other sources said that the policemen could have mistaken Gonzales as a drug dealer.

Witnesses said that Gonzales was made to board a van by the policemen.

Two of the witnesses, including the alleged drug dealer Richard have said they were willing to testify against the five policemen and be admitted to the witness protection program.

Murder and kidnapping charges have been filed against the five policemen before the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

CBCP, a bunch of hypocrites?

IF I were President Macapagal-Arroyo, I would not accept the resignation of Customs Collector Celso Templo of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) collection district.

Templo resigned after being scolded by the President for low revenue collection in his district. He was one of two or three customs collectors who got a tongue-lashing from the President for low collections. The other one is Collector Rey Nicolas of the Port of Manila.

Templo is one of the most efficient collectors at the Bureau of Customs. The NAIA collection district was one of the top earners in the bureau.

But, like most other customs ports, NAIA has fallen on hard times. Importers who make use of NAIA as their port of entry have not been bringing in goods; or if they import at all, their goods come in trickles. Result: collection of customs duties and taxes on imports is low.

The only customs port that is doing brisk business is the one in Cebu.

The Port of Cebu, customs insiders say, has become the favorite of importers because of customs officials and employees in that port place low value on highly dutiable goods. Because of the low valuation, importers pay lower tariff than the normal duties and taxes imposed on their goods.

That's the reason, according to customs insiders, Cebu port has become a favorite of technical smugglers. A techni-

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo



cal smuggler is one who evades payment of the correct tariff on his imported goods.

Cebu Collector Billy Bibit was among those present at the meeting of revenue district officers of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and customs collectors last Saturday. The meeting was presided over by GMA herself.

"Napahiya si Templo dahil pinagaitan siya sa maraming tao kaya nag-resign (Templo was embarrassed because he was scolded in front of many people that's why he resigned)," said one of Templo's aides.

If only GMA knew what's happening at the Cebu port, she would have understood why Templo and others were having low collection while Bibit was having a heyday.

If 30-year-old entrepreneur Emerson Calingo is telling the truth, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has lost its moral authority to preach against immorality and other wrongdoings, especially by government officials.

It doesn't practice what it preaches. That is, if Calingo's accusation against the CBCP is true.

Calingo, who studied in Catholic schools, claims that he is in trouble with the law

because of CBCP's fault.

His problem started, he said, when he went into a business partnership with the CBCP to set up CBCPNet, a company that would serve as the Internet provider and systems integrator of the Catholic Church in the country.

CBCPNet's vision, Calingo said, was very noble. It would propagate the Catholic faith and filter out evil via the Internet.

According to Calingo, the business partnership with CBCPNet entailed his providing it with 200 computer units through his firm, the Micromation System.

On Feb. 27, 2001, a hundred units were delivered to the CBCPNet by Micromation System. The computer units were taken on credit by Micromation System from LP Electronics.

A postdated check for P2.6 million was issued by CBCPNet to Micromation System. Micromation System, in turn, issued the check to LP Electronics.

However, the CBCPNet's check bounced, Calingo said. This forced him to issue LP Electronics a promissory note assuming full responsibility for the payment of the debt.

Calingo said he thought the CBCP would never renege on its obligation to make the check good.

But, alas and alack! The CBCP did not, driving Calingo into a corner.

Preoccupied with the obligation, Calingo said he conse-

quently neglected his business as he went after the "elusive" bishops and their partner, Eman Lim.

The CBCPNet's check was supposed to have been made good on June 3, 2001 after the bouncing check was replaced.

But lo and behold! Calingo said the unthinkable happened. The new check issued by the bishops also bounced.

As a result, Calingo was arrested by the police and detained at the Makati City Jail on a charge of estafa. The case was filed by LP Electronics.

And you know what? LP Electronics has also gone bankrupt, according to Calingo, because of the CBCP's unpaid obligation.

After 24 days in jail, Calingo was released on bail. He turned 30 yesterday, Oct. 14, his business bankrupt. He has nothing but copies of documents—the secretary's certificate on the CBCP guarantee, the CBCP agreement with Eman Lim's Twins Inc. as project manager, the CBCPNet's incorporation papers.

All that stuff means nothing to the CBCP, according to Calingo.

If ordinary people like Calingo can no longer trust the CBCP, the association of highest officials of the Catholic Church in the country, who else can we trust?

CBCP, you preach against immorality in high offices in government. Do you think it's not immoral leaving a poor man to go to jail because of your fault?

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Tuesday, October 15, 2002
28th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:
Gospel:

Gal 5:1-6
Lk 11:37-41

As Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to have a meal with him. So he went and sat at table. The Pharisee then wondered why Jesus did not first wash his hands before dinner. But the Lord said to him, "So then, you Pharisees, you clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside yourselves you are full of greed and evil. Fools! He who made the outside, also made the inside. But according to you, by the mere giving of alms everything is made clean."

Commentary

Jesus never rejects anyone. His word and his presence are equally open for all. Today a pharisee invites him to dinner. According to the Gospel, the pharisees are his enemies. It does not matter. He enters and seats at table with him. But that does not mean he is lacking courage to say clearly what he thinks. We ought to learn from Jesus to be open to all without rejecting any. But we ought to learn also from him to express what we believe. Without any aggressivity. In a simple way. But with clarity. That's the only way to build community or friendship: with sincere and open dialogue.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES



CRIMINAL LAW (Dangerous Drugs Act, as amended)—Buy-bust operation—A buy-bust operation is a form of entrapment whereby ways and means are resorted to for the purpose of trapping and capturing lawbreakers in the execution of their criminal plans. It is a procedure or operation sanctioned by law and which has consistently proven itself to be an effective method of apprehending drug peddlers. Thus, unless there is a clear and convincing evidence that the members of the buy-bust team were inspired by improper motives or were not properly performing their duties, their testimony on the operation deserves full faith and credit. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Melo, Third Division, People v. Uy, G. R. Nos. 144506-07, April 11, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

2 car theft suspects killed in shootout

By Alcuin Papa

TWO SUSPECTED members of a big carnap syndicate were killed in an alleged shootout with Quezon City policemen in a residential area of the city early yesterday morning.

Police said one slain suspect was Jonathan Villa, of Mary Subdivision, Pamplona, Las Piñas City, and identified the other only

as Michael. The two suffered gunshot wounds in different parts of the body and were declared dead at the East Avenue Medical Center.

Two of their cohorts escaped on board an Anfra vehicle after shooting it out with police.

Central Police District Police Intelligence Unit chief Senior Insp. Rodolfo Jaraza said the men belonged to one of the biggest

syndicates operating in the city.

Quezon City is known to have the highest car theft rate in Metro Manila, with an estimated three cars lost to thieves every day.

CPDIU reports said the shootout happened at about 4:45 a.m. at the corner of Mayaman and Malumanay streets in UP Village, Quezon City.

A patrol unit was sent to the village after Jaraza's office re-

ceived information that car thieves were going to strike in the area.

The patrol unit chanced upon a red Nissan Sentra without plate numbers and with one of its locks destroyed.

When the police team approached the car, they were immediately fired upon, investigators said.

The policemen were forced to

return fire, resulting in the death of the two suspects.

Recovered from the suspects were the Sentra, a .45 caliber pistol, two .38 caliber revolvers, ammunition and various master keys.

Policemen were also tracking down the two suspects who escaped.

In a news conference yesterday morning, National Capital

Region Police Office chief Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco said police were investigating the link of the two suspects to communist insurgents.

Velasco pointed out that the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army is known to conduct criminal activities like car theft, holdup, extortion and kidnapping to support their cause.

Court wants Mango man stopped

By Leila B. Salaverria

A MAKATI Regional Trial Court wants a hold departure order issued to stop a Turkish national who is known to be the franchise holder of the popular clothing brand Mango.

In a four-page order dated Sept. 17, Judge Rebecca Mariano of Branch 136 of the Makati RTC asked the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation to issue a hold departure order against Ed Tekeli in connection with estafa charges filed against him by businessman Antonio Cumagun.

In his complaint, Cumagun said that in August 1998, Tekeli introduced himself as the president of Parkniton International Inc. and a franchisee of the brand Mango. Cumagun said Tekeli invited him to invest in Parkniton to become a board member. In doing so, Cumagun's family's advertising agency, PAC/BBDO, would gain the Mango exclusive advertising account.

Cumagun said Tekeli and an Abraham Cu assured him that the exclusive advertising account would be given to PAC/BBDO and that as investor, Cumagun would be a member of the Mango board of directors in charge of marketing.

The complainant said he gave Tekeli an initial P1.25 million and later another P3.5 million allegedly so that Cumagun could become the third largest stockholder in Parkniton.

Cumagun said that three months after he gave his second investment, Tekeli informed him that the Mango account would not be given to PAC/BBDO because the Mango brand preferred to be a direct advertiser.

Cumagun said he was very displeased and demanded that Tekeli return his investment immediately, but Tekeli failed to comply.

To force Tekeli to pay, Cumagun hired a lawyer to write to him. Tekeli then issued a check for P2 million, but he did not pay the rest of the balance, the complainant said.

Cumagun said he discovered later that Tekeli was never the president of Parkniton, and that the company had been registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission only on the day Tekeli paid the initial investment of P1.25 million.

'Bukas-Kotse' men fall in Caloocan

POLICE arrested a suspected leader of a "Bukas-Kotse Gang" and his two cohorts in Caloocan City last Sunday.

Arrested were alleged gang leader Arman Padilla, 27, and Nicanor Dungon, 24, and Jason Naguit, 24, all natives of Apalit, Pampanga.

Insp. Christopher Onelia, Caloocan Police Station 3 commander, said police caught the three men while the latter were trying to drive away in a Toyota Revo that had been parked at the corner of B. Serrano Street and Edsa Sunday morning.

Onelia said the group was responsible for a series of car thefts in the city. The group was known to sell the stolen vehicles in Pampanga and Bulacan, he added.

Investigators said the suspect's last victim was Teresita Barrameda, whose Tamaraw FX was stolen last Oct. 4 while parked in front of her house in Bagong Silang, Caloocan.

PNP to assist MMDA in clearing operations

By TJ Burgonio and Leila B. Salaverria

EXPECTING violent reactions, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday tapped the Philippine National Police to assist in his campaign to clear up waterways and sidewalks of all obstructions.

Fernando and PNP officials forged an agreement to join forces in clearing esteros of squatters to minimize floods, and to rid streets and sidewalks of illegal vendors to ease traffic.

Police officials said they would only secure the MMDA workers from violent squatters and illegal vendors.

Fernando, speaking at a joint conference with police officials in Camp Crame, noted that about 15,000 houses of "illegal settlers"

are built atop hundreds of waterways around the metropolis, causing floodwaters to rise in low-lying areas when it rains.

He noted that "practically all of our waterways are clogged with squatters so that the water cannot even flow to the pumping stations."

"Areas where heavy floodings occur during heavy rains will be the first targets," he said.

Director Lucas Managuelod, PNP director for investigation and detective management, said members of the PNP's task force on anti-professional squatting syndicates would provide security to the MMDA demolition crew.

"So we will be assisting the MMDA in terms of security," Managuelod added. "We will secure the MMDA personnel from people who will resist."

The PNP's Maritime Group would deploy personnel to help the MMDA clear the waterways, he said.

Fernando said the concrete homes of squatters would be demolished. "We will demolish them, even police stations," he said. "Our priority is to ease traffic for our people."

He, however, promised that the qualified squatters would be relocated.

He also announced that the MMDA would be in charge of traffic enforcement in the metropolis from now on, and the PNP's Traffic Management Group would be relieved of its traffic duties so it could concentrate on the anti-car theft campaign.

"So when it comes to the traffic problem, you should put the blame on me," Fernando said.

"I'm now in charge of traffic enforcement."

He said that within the week, the MMDA would put up checkpoints and control stations in strategic locations along Edsa to apprehend abusive drivers and manage the traffic.

The PNP and the MMDA also agreed that the whole stretch of Edsa would be manned by MMDA enforcers only, and the 280-strong Traffic Management Group would be pulled out of Edsa, Fernando said.

"An agreement has been reached that the TMG will concentrate on car thefts and be relieved of their duties on Edsa," he told reporters.

Fernando also said the 800-strong Traffic Engineering Group would be reinforced.

MMDA Traffic Operations Cen-

ter Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said the set-up would eliminate finger-pointing among personnel manning the often congested road that passes through most of Metro Manila.

"Finger-pointing tends to occur between officers," Vergel de Dios said. "Now, only the MMDA blue boys would be seen on Edsa."

The task of solving flooding in the metropolis has recently been turned over also to the MMDA.

Sidewalk clearing operations took a bloody turn last August when an MMDA enforcer shot and killed a vendor who had fired at him.

MMDA officials have said that MMDA personnel are often harassed during operations, and that sidewalk vendors badmouth and throw stones at them.



WOMEN'S WAR

Wives of members of the Philippine National Police participate in a bout of tug-of-war during Sunday's sports fest for policemen, soldiers and their families in Camp Aguinaldo.

JOAN BONDOC

Metro mayors to ask for further devolution

By Jerome Aning

METRO MANILA mayors will seek further devolution of national government functions to propel development in the National Capital Region.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, president of the NCR mayors' league, said that in a more decentralized system, the national government would be limited to providing support and guidance to the local government units.

"The LGUs would be tasked to implement development projects at their localities and they would definitely be more effective and

efficient than the present system," he told reporters.

Atienza lamented that the national government powers turned over to the LGUs were mostly in "problem areas such as public health care and social welfare."

He cited the functions of the Department of Public Works and Highways, which he said ought to be turned over to the LGUs.

The DPWH, he said, is saddled with implementing local projects when it should concentrate on efforts that have a national impact, such as the development of national highways and mass transport systems.

"At present, even the construction, repair and maintenance of public infrastructure like local roads and drainage systems are being undertaken by the DPWH," he added.

He said that a few months ago, the national government devolved flood-control powers to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, which could not implement it without the support of LGUs.

Malacañang also recently turned over police control and supervision to the LGUs. But the move has been hounded by allegations that it violates the consti-

tutional provision which states that police should be national in scope.

Atienza recounted that during his visit to Guangzhou, China two weeks ago, he learned that the city government authorities there were responsible for building a network of skyways and the ongoing construction of a subway system.

"The mayor of Guangzhou said that after (the central government in) Beijing gave its assent, the city government borrowed money from the World Bank and immediately began construction," he said.

Barangay league election 'illegal'

By Jerome Aning

AN OPPOSITION Manila councilor yesterday asked barangay chairs in the city to participate in the election of their league officials that has been set for Oct. 21 by several "renegade" barangay heads.

Councilor Bernardito Ang said the barangay league presidential election held last Sept. 15 at the Manila Hotel was illegal, based on new rules formulated by the City Council majority.

Ang pointed out the provision of the Local Government Code

which states that the league president should be elected at large.

In a related development, a reliable source at City Hall said that Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna, four city congressmen and interior department officials met about 700 barangay chairs in Binondo over the weekend to convince them to participate in the Oct. 21 exercise.

Lacuna and the council minority oppose the new rules set by City Ordinance No. 8053, which the majority councilors initiated.

Mayor Lito Atienza supported the new rules, saying they would enhance coordination between City Hall and the barangays.

He earlier called "an exercise in futility" the move of the renegades, led by former councilor and league president Natalio Beltran III.

The new mode of election, Atienza said, is more manageable and cost efficient since it reduces the number of electors and would ensure that all districts would be represented in the league.



SEALED WITH SALT

Salt Asia Inc., represented by president Dennis Ng (right) pledges to Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit its support for the Department of Health's "Patak sa Asin" program which promotes the use of iodized salt.

Jealousy waste of energy, says Troy's new girl Cher Calvin

CHER CALVIN exudes class without coming across as snooty. She has not gotten rid of her American twang, but it does not alienate television viewers.

The 28-year-old newscaster's perky presence on-screen and her no-nonsense style make people sit up and listen.

What makes Cher truly beautiful is that she's totally unaware of how gorgeous she is. So un-self-conscious yet so focused on the job at hand. The former news desk editor of Time magazine and film director/assignment editor producer of CNN knows what she wants and she's got what it takes to get them.

Whether she's hosting "F" (Saturdays, 11:30 p.m., Channel 2), the auto race show "Driven" (Sundays, 1:30 p.m., Studio 23), or anchoring "News Central" (nighly, 10 p.m., Studio 23) and "ANC Dateline News with Cher Calvin" (Mondays to Fridays, 12 noon), Cher gives it her all.

In between shows, she gets a large dose of adrenaline from her beau (who happens to be Troy Montero) to get her through another grueling day at work. Cher and Troy would rather not "advertise" their romance like most show biz couples do, but since Pinoys are such incurable romantics, Cher must forgive me for bringing Troy into the picture. Just to keep the readers tickled pink the way she was when she and Troy were sharing chocolate chip cookies like two kids.

I'll let you in on my girl's talk with Cher when we were both having fun choosing eyeglasses at the optical shop of Vivian Sarabia in Megamall, the favorite of celebrities.

What do you enjoy doing more? News, "F" or "Driven"?

I've always wanted to be a newscaster, so

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal



news gives me the most fulfillment. In terms of longevity, of course, I would rather do news.

You're lucky just to do the news and not really be in the news. You've been spared from intrigues although now your romance with Troy Montero is a hot item. How is he?

(Cher just winks and giggles.)

I guess that dazed look says it all. You have such a charmed life. Was there anything you wanted that you never got?

Since I got back from New York I've always wanted to do the news but I didn't get it right away. I had to work my way through.

Well, there was this guy friend who kinda led me on. That hurt me but I'm over that now.

You appear to be always in control. Are you that way too when you're in love?

Nope! I turn into a softie. I'm super malambing and sweet. I take care of my man. I follow him but not to the point of letting him rule my life.

I can't stand control freaks.

Since you lived in New York for quite some time, you must have had relationships with Americans and other foreigners. Are Pinoys better lovers?

I only had Pinoy boyfriends when I came back here. Americans and other foreigners are less possessive but now I realize Pinoys are sweeter.

What would you say is the best way to keep your man?

Just let him be. Never give in to jealousy attacks. That's a waste of energy.

Are you the type who would ask a man out for dinner?

It's no big deal. Why put malice in a simple dinner invitation? Even if he's the one who asks me out, I would not mind splitting the bill and paying my share.

I guess it depends on how cool the guy is.

What's the most important lesson you learned in your stint with CNN and Time Magazine? Why did you decide to quit those dream jobs in favor of trying your luck here?

I learned that we should never burn our bridges. You'll never know if the people you meet on your way up are also the same people you'll meet on your way down.

I decided to leave because I felt like I wasn't growing.

It was Tita Nena (Amalia Fuentes), who is a close friend of my dad, who opened the first door for me but she told me that's all she will do and I have to be the one to walk through that door.

Since you seem to be so in love now, are you going to settle down soon?

(Blushes) Anytime...

How many kids would you want to have and what kind of mom are you going to be?

I'd like to have four kids and for the first three years I will take them to a secluded island and raise them there. That's my dream. During their formative years I want my kids to be away from all the noise and pollution. I think I'll make a cool mom.

Personal

MY deepest condolences to a dear friend and colleague Ricky Lo, whose mother passed away last Thursday. Ricky, I'm sure your mom is watching over you from up above and feeling so proud of all you have become.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

Hot!

MANILA'S premiere jazz ensemble, the Hotlegs, will perform in a dance concert at Onstage on Nov. 5 and 7 in a show called "In the Flash," which also marks the group's 21st anniversary.

A total of 31 dancers will do dream pieces, signature Hotlegs dances and other dance forms. Choreographers are Charles Thompson, Georcelle Daput, Nancy Crowe and Christine Blando. Guest choreographer is Jaime de Prado.

Special guests are Ralison Alonso, the Ma-neuvers, and some of the music industry's finest concert performers.

The Hotlegs, led by managing and artistic director Christine Blando, is composed of highly trained professional dancers and choreographers who have made dance a lifestyle. They have performed with the biggest and finest artists in town, including Basil Valdez, Leah Navarro, Apo, Celeste Legaspi, Kuh Ledesma, Gary Valenciano, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Sharon Cuneta, Martin Nievera and Regine Velasquez.

The Hotlegs began as a breakaway group from the Metropolitan Ballet. For their debut performance, the Hotlegs danced before the King of Morocco.

"In the Flash" is produced by Hotlegs Entertainment. Tickets for P600, P900 and



P1,200 are available at Ticketworld or 891-5610. Executive producer is Mary Anne Gomez. Stage direction is by Floy Quintos, TV direction by Al Quinn. Costumes are by Desiree Guico, Twinkle Zamora and Maxi Cinco.

THE HOTLEGS
dancers: Former Metropolitan Ballet Members.

New screenwriters make their bid

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



Aside from these 10 stalwarts, there are others now writing scripts for television, and still others who have written outstanding screenplays that have yet to get noticed.

One thing all of them have had to learn is patience, and it is this ability to wait and think long-term that, aside from their talent will be their ticket to eventual success.

Other prospective scriptwriters would do well to be similarly focused and "unsinkable," because the local film scene is fraught with numerous pitfalls, obstacles, and dead-ends.

But, with patience and determination, talent will out, as these new screenwriters occasional successes show. Write on!

Family-friendly shows

TWENTY-NINE TV programs will be given the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children's Television "Anak TV Seal" in ceremonies to be held this December to coincide with the International Children's day of Broadcasting.

The foundation hopes that, by recognizing such family-friendly TV shows, parents and other stockholders will promote them, and that increased viewership would in turn encourage advertisers to support them.

This way, more worthy shows can

continue telecasting, to be enjoyed especially by the youth. It is estimated that more than half of the local TV audience is made up of young people aged 18 and below.

The 29 winners this year: "Urban Doctor," "Trabaho Lang" and "The Exchange"—ABC.

"Maggie and the Ferocious Beast," "Franklin," "Rainbow Fish," "Epol/Apple," "Math Tinik," "Sinekwela," "Hiraya-manuwar" and "Bayani"—ABS-CBN.

"Blue's Clues," "5&Up," "Chikiting Patrol," "Digital LG Quiz Show," "Make Way for Noddy," "Charlotte," "Probe Team," and "Cheche Lazaro Presents"—GMA.

"Good Take"—IBC

"Sports kids"—NBN

"Ocean Girl"—"2oboomafoo,"

"House Calls," "Pilot Guide," "New Yankee Workshop," "Convergence 88" and "Our House"—NET 25.

And "Gameplan"—Studio 23.

'Disney's Superstar Hits'

DISNEY'S compilation of the hit radio versions of the themes of its biggest movies leads off with the endearing title song from "Beauty and the Beast," are sung by Celine Dion and Peabo Bryson.

In other cuts, Phil Collins waxes poetic with "You'll Be in My Heart" from "Tarzan," followed by Elton John's "Circle of Life" from "The Lion King." Next, Christina Aguilera performs "Reflection" from "Mulan," while Sting sings "My Funny Friend and Me" from "The Emperor's New Groove."

Other pieces are from "Toy Story," "Aladdin" and "The Hunchback of Notre Dame, 2."

City Lite sends 2 lucky listeners to watch Lea Salonga on Broadway

CITY LITE 88.3, Manila's only smooth jazz radio station, sent two lucky listeners to New York to watch Lea Salonga perform as Mei-Li in the Broadway musical "The Flower Drum Song."

In the promo called "The Great Broadway

Getaway," City Lite 88.3 invited listeners throughout September to fax or e-mail entries containing details of the musical.

On Sept. 30, at the newly opened Merk's Bar Bistro at Greenbelt 3, two winners were drawn from 20 finalists by City Lite 88.3 station manager Pinky Aseron.

The winners are Tommy Hafalla of Baguio City and Frances Therese Lo of Quezon City.

Each of the other finalists took home a copy of Lea Salonga's CD.

As part of the evening's entertainment, Isay Alvarez performed Broadway hits from "Les Miserable," "Miss Saigon," "Cabaret," "Sweet Charity" and even "Chorus Line."

Isay was later joined by her husband Robert Sena and her other contemporaries—Bimbo Cerrudo, Pinky Marquez and Irene Alano.

The Great Broadway Getaway was made possible by Globe Handphone, Pacific Internet, Shell Diesel Ultra, Caltrate Plus and AIG Credit Cards.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SPORT / WALK TO REMEMBER
ODEON	THE TOUCH
ODEON-2	KARTA ALAS / NAKED NIGHTS
ROBEN	LOLLIPOP
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATANAW MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SCOOBY DOO / STUART LITTLE 2

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	LULLIPOP
REMAR	HUBAD NA MULTO
REMAR-2	LULLIPOP

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B	HUBAD NA MULTO
C	

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CINEMA-2	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-3	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOUCH
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	ENOUGH
CINEMA-6	BESTMAN
CINEMA-7	BIRTHDAY GIRL
CINEMA-8	HUBAD NA MULTO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLOODWORK
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA-12	FRAILITY
CINEMA-14	O
CINEMA-15	BESTMAN

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

CINEMA 1	BESTMAN
CINEMA 2	ENOUGH
CINEMA 3	PROST!
CINEMA 4	ROAD TO PERDITION

UNIWIIDE COASTAL MALL

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CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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THE TOUCH P13 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45	FRAILTY R18 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30	TUXEDO P13 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

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"KILALA N'YO ba ako?" Lourdes Carvajal, a.k.a. Inday Badiday, receives a Lifetime Achievement Award.



POP GOES Fernandez in a Shakira number.

Smooth, but long and late

From page A31

more bearable for the people in the audience, most of whom were bored and hungry.

The irrepressible Kris Aquino made the audience laugh when she came on stage to accept her citation for being Best Female Showbiz-Oriented Show Host for "The Buzz" and Best Game Show award for "Game K N B?"

"I dedicate these awards to my mom, who has loved me through the times when I was not so loveable, to my manager at *sa dalawang pinakamahal kong lalaki, si Josh... at yung isa, sa akin na lang po,*" Aquino said in between giggles.

When it was time for De las Alas to accept her fourth Best Comedy Actress award, she thanked her supporters, and added, "I dedicate this to my honey. *Sana hindi kami pareho ng honey ni Kris.*"

Funnymen Joey de Leon and Long Mejia also made the audience roll in the aisles when they accepted their awards. GMA 7's "Eat Bulaga" is the best variety show for the eighth straight year while "Kool Ka Lang" is this year's best comedy show.

GMA 7 took home most of the awards, including the highly coveted one for Best Station. Eddie Garcia was a shoo-in as Best Drama Actor for his performance in GMA 7's tele-novela "Kung Mawawala Ka," which also took home the Best Drama Series award.

Gag shows

Garcia was pitted against younger actors Richard Gomez ("Your Honor"), John Lloyd Cruz ("Ibaling Ilog"), Diether Ocampo ("Recuerdo de Amor"), and Jericho Rosales "Pangako Sa 'Yo'".

This year's best comedy actors, Ogie Alcasid and Michael V, paid tribute to the forerunners of gag shows like "Todas," "Going Bananas" and "Champoy" when they accepted the Best Gag Show award for "Bubble Gang."

Paolo Ballesteros ("Eat Bulaga") and Nancy Castiglione ("Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga") were heralded as this year's best TV personalities.

"SOP" bested two other nominees for the Best Musical Variety Show citation while Gina de Venecia's "Pira-Pirasong Pangarap" bagged the Best Drama Mini-Series award.

The best male TV host trophy went to the absent Vic Sotto for "Eat Bulaga." Last year's winner, De Leon, accepted the award in his behalf.

The tandem of Winnie Monsod and Oscar Orbos bagged the awards for Best Public Affairs

Program and Best Public Affairs Program Hosts.

"Jessica Soho Reports" of GMA 7 took the Best Magazine Show and Best Magazine Show Host awards. "Five and Up" bagged the Best Children Show and Best Children Show Host awards.

Added treat

"Frontpage: Ulat ni Mel Tiangco" received its third Best News Program award, an added treat for Tiangco who tied with Korina Sanchez ("TV Patrol") for the Best Female Newscaster award.

"Cheche Lazaro Presents" was honored in the Best Travel Show category while Arnold Clavio's "Unang Hirit" team bagged the Best Morning Show and Best Morning Show Host citations.

"Startalk" won the Best Showbiz-Oriented Show citation while "Click" won the Best Youth-Oriented Show plumb.

Paolo Contis and Velasquez won for ABS-CBN the Best Single Performance awards for their portrayals in "Chicken Feet" and "Lobo" both for "Maalaala Mo Kaya."

Velasquez bested Sharon Cuneta, Jacklyn Jose, Glydel Mercado and Vilma Santos.

Jean Garcia snatched the Best Drama Actress throne for her performance as the vengeful and scorned woman Madam Claudia Buenavista in "Pangako Sa 'Yo," from last year's Queen of Soap, Eula "Amor Powers" Valdes.

2 for Boy

Also nominated for Best Drama Actress this year were Valdes for "Pangako Sa 'Yo," Hilda Koronel and Sharmaine Arnaiz for "Kung Mawawala Ka" and Claudine Baretto for "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan."

Abunda won two hosting awards for "The Buzz" and "Private Conversations with Boy Abunda," which also took home the Best Celebrity Talk Show award.

Best public service host Erwin Tulfo's "Mission X" took home the Best Public Service Program award. Sanchez accepted in behalf of her partner Henry Omaga-Diaz his Best Male Newscaster award for "TV Patrol" (ABS-CBN).

An ecstatic Angel Aquino accepted the Best Lifestyle Show award for "F" and the Best Lifestyle Show Host award for co-hosts Daphne Oseña and Cher Calvin and herself.

The honor of being the best educational show host this year was bestowed upon Ernie Baron for "Knowledge Power," which was also heralded the best educational show.

Among the hosts, Abunda and De las Alas were the most effective

Piano man Romy Posadas plays at Merk's

FANS of renowned pianist Romy Posadas will be glad to know that he has a new home—the

newly opened Merk's Bar Bistro on the third level of Greenbelt 2 at the Ayala Center in Makati.

Posadas performs for the lunch crowd, Monday to Friday, from noon till 2 p.m., and for the Happy

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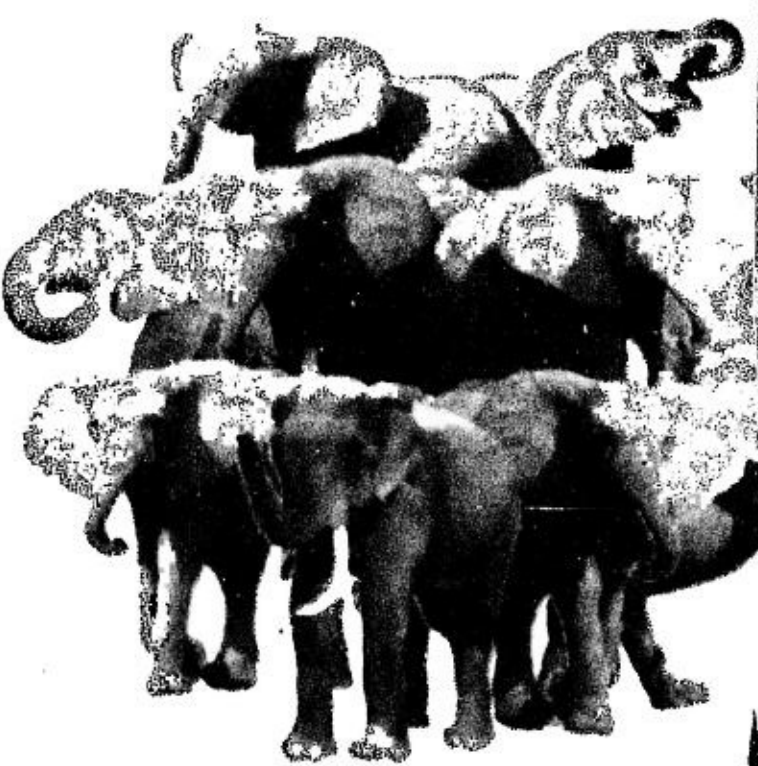
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KRIS Aquino brings home two for her loved ones Josh and "secret."



LADY IN RED Ai-Ai de las Alas in the clutches of the Power Boys.

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TUXEDO

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel (049) 411.1146

BESTMAN
MR. DEEDS
TUXEDO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

PROSTI
TUXEDO
SPY KIDS
RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
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PROSTI
TUXEDO
ENOUGH
ROAD TO PERDITION

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

- (DOLBY EX) TUXEDO
- (DTS) PROSTI
- (DTS) ENOUGH

Lianas Cinema
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BESTMAN
HUBAD NA MULTO
LOLLIPOP
VOODOO

Lianas MovieCity
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TUXEDO
BESTMAN
MR. DEEDS
KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
PROSTI

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
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BESTMAN
PROSTI
MR. DEEDS

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TUXEDO
BESTMAN
MR. DEEDS

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233

BESTMAN
PROSTI
(DTS) ENOUGH
(DOLBY) ROAD TO PERDITION

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

VOODOO
BESTMAN
SPY KIDS 2

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 481.0730

BESTMAN
TUXEDO
BIRTHDAY GIRL
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- SPY KIDS 2
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SM CENTERPOINT

7149522-7161416

- BESTMAN
- 0
- MR. DEEDS
- LOLLIPOP
- THE TUXEDO
- FRAILTY
- THE TOUCH
- SPY KIDS 2
- BLOOD WORK
- PROSTI

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

- 0
- BLOOD WORK
- PROSTI
- THE TOUCH
- MR. DEEDS
- BESTMAN
- THE TUXEDO
- FRAILTY
- BIRTHDAY GIRL
- HUBAD NA MULTO
- SPY KIDS 2
- LOLLIPOP

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

- FRAILTY
- BLOODWORK
- 0
- MR. DEEDS
- THE TOUCH
- THE TUXEDO
- LOLLIPOP
- PROSTI
- TUXEDO
- ENOUGH
- BIRTHDAY GIRL
- BESTMAN

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6331901 • 6329401

- THE TUXEDO
- BLOOD WORK
- THE TOUCH
- MR. DEEDS
- FRAILTY
- 0
- BIRTHDAY GIRL
- SPY KIDS 2
- BESTMAN
- THE TUXEDO
- PROSTI
- LOLLIPOP

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

- PROSTI
- FRAILTY
- LOLLIPOP
- BESTMAN
- MR. DEEDS
- THE TOUCH
- BLOOD WORK
- THE TUXEDO

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- FRAILTY
- BLOOD WORK
- THE TUXEDO
- MR. DEEDS
- HUBAD NA MULTO
- PROSTI
- BESTMAN
- THE TOUCH
- 0
- LOLLIPOP

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

- TUXEDO
- ENOUGH
- SPIDER
- SIMONE
- REVELATION
- PROSTI
- BESTMAN
- THE TUXEDO

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

- REVELATION
- CLOSED
- K-19
- BESTMAN
- ENOUGH
- THE TUXEDO
- CLOSED
- SIMONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA

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- MR. DEEDS
- SPY KIDS 2
- PROSTI
- BIRTHDAY GIRL
- BESTMAN

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- THE TOUCH
- THE TUXEDO
- BESTMAN

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

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- THE TOUCH
- BESTMAN
- THE TUXEDO
- MR. DEEDS

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

- REVELATION
- SIMONE
- BESTMAN
- SPY KIDS 2
- THE TUXEDO
- ENOUGH

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- STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
-

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- SOON TO OPEN!
- 4 NEW
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-

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BLOOD WORK
10:50 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/
10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55 END

MR. DEEDS
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8:55/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END

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10:10 MF, 12:40, 3:10,
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TUXEDO
"O"
BIRTHDAY GIRL
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- FRAILTY
- "O"
- BESTMAN
- MR. DEEDS
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- BLOOD WORK
- TUXEDO
- "O"
- BIRTHDAY GIRL
- THE TOUCH
- K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
- MR. DEEDS
- PROSTI

Novaliches

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- BLOOD WORK
- TUXEDO
- BIRTHDAY GIRL
- "O"
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- FRAILTY
- MR. DEEDS
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- TUXEDO
- BESTMAN
- BLOOD WORK
- MR. DEEDS
- "O"
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- ORAGNE COUNTY
- ENOUGH
- K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
- VOO DOO
- TUKAAN

Iloilo

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- TUXEDO
- ENOUGH
- K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
- REVELATIONS
- SIMONE
- BESTMAN

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All times are in P.M.

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THE TUXEDO	BLOOD WORK	STORYTELLING EXCLUSIVE	MR. DEEDS	MR. DEEDS
THE TOUCH	THE TOUCH	11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15	
MR. DEEDS	THE TUXEDO	MAX KEEBLE'S BIG MOVE (EXCLUSIVE)	THE TUXEDO	BLOODWORK
BESTMAN	"O"	11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15	THE TUXEDO
	BIRTHDAY GIRL	MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE (THE REPEAT)	THE TOUCH	
	MR. DEEDS	OCT. 18-19, 25-26	FRAILTY	
	FRAILTY		SPY KIDS 2	FRAILTY
			11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	

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2	MR. DEEDS
3	TUXEDO
4	TUXEDO
5	SPY KIDS 2
6	BLOOD WORK
7	MR. DEEDS
8	PROSTI
9	BESTMAN
10	TOUCH

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

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2	Golden Pearl THX
3	Golden Pearl THX
4	Golden Pearl THX
5	Golden Pearl THX
6	Golden Pearl THX
7	Golden Pearl THX
8	Golden Pearl THX
9	Golden Pearl THX
10	Golden Pearl THX

Maragana

(Pasay) tel 833 2700 822 2976

1	BESTMAN
2	LOLLIPOP
3	TUXEDO

st r mall

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1	BESTMAN
2	TOUCH
3	PROSTI
4	TUXEDO
5	HUBAD NA MULTO

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2	HUBAD NA MULTO
3	BESTMAN
4	TUXEDO
5	LOLLIPOP
6	BLOOD WORK
7	
8	

PREMIERE

(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to 13

1	MR. DEEDS
2	OCT. 10 TO 11 SCREENING TIME: 6:00, 8:30 PM
3	OCT. 12 TO 13 SCREENING TIME: 3:00, 6:00, 8:00 PM

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(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	ROAD TO PERDITION

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1	RESERVE
2	BESTMAN
3	LOLLIPOP

Sunshine

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1	SPY KIDS 2
2	HUBAD NA MULTO
3	MY TEACHERS WIFE
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1	TUXEDO
2	PROSTI
3	BESTMAN
4	FRAILTY
5	BLOOD WORK
6	MR. DEEDS
7	TOUCH
8	
9	

Gotesco Caloocan

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2	

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

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2	PROSTI
3	LOLLIPOP
4	TUXEDO
5	RESERVE
6	TOUCH
7	MR. DEEDS
8	BESTMAN
9	HUBAD NA MULTO

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1	LOLLIPOP
2	MR. DEEDS
3	BESTMAN
4	TUXEDO
5	PROSTI
6	
7	
8	

Gotesco Ortigas

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1	BESTMAN
2	HUBAD NA MULTO
3	MR. DEEDS
4	PROSTI
5	TUXEDO

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BESTMAN
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Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BESTMAN
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Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

1	PROSTI
2	HUBAD NA MULTO
3	LOLLIPOP

Mandaluyong

tel 533.3851 533.3856

1	BESTMAN
2	TOUCH
3	TUXEDO

Isetan Cinerama Complex Recto

tel 733.4238

1	TUXEDO
2	HUBAD NA MULTO
3	BLOOD WORK
4	BESTMAN
5	LOLLIPOP

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoar Cavite) RESERVE RESERVE

Berna Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 879.2029

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2	BESTMAN

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2	PROSTI
3	TOUCH
4	MR. DEEDS
5	TUXEDO
6	BLOOD WORK
7	

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2	BESTMAN

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

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2	MR. DEEDS
3	LOLLIPOP
4	THE TUXEDO
5	FRAILTY
6	THE TOUCH
7	SPY KIDS 2
8	BLOOD WORK
9	PROSTI
10	

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4	BESTMAN

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3	TUXEDO
4	PROSTI

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2	TUXEDO
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4	RESERVE
5	ROAD TO PERDITION

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1	PROSTI
2	TUXEDO
3	ENOUGH
4	ROAD TO PERDITION

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(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1	TUXEDO
2	PROSTI
3	ENOUGH

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	BESTMAN
2	HUBAD NA MULTO
3	LOLLIPOP
4	VOODOO

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3	MR. DEEDS
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5	PROSTI

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1	BESTMAN
2	PROSTI
3	MR. DEEDS

Olivarez Los Baños

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1	TUXEDO
2	BESTMAN
3	MR. DEEDS

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(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233

1	BESTMAN
2	PROSTI
3	END...
4	ROAD TO PERDITION

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1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
2	RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

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2	BESTMAN
3	SPY KIDS 2

Fiesta World Mall

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1	TUXEDO
2	BIRTHDAY GIRL
3	K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
4	

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(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1	MR. DEEDS
2	BESTMAN
3	TUXEDO
4	PROSTI

ADVANCED SCREENING **THX** **DOLBY** **dtc** **SDDS**

MEET THE NEXT SCREEN GODDESS
AUBREY MILES
OF REGAL FILM'S "PROSTI"
ON OCTOBER 5, 2002 6PM
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2	HUBAD NA MULTO
3	THE TOUCH
4	BLOOD WORK
5	THE TUXEDO
6	BESTMAN
7	LOLLIPOP
8	MR. DEEDS

SM CENTERPOINT

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1	BESTMAN
2	0
3	MR. DEEDS
4	LOLLIPOP
5	THE TUXEDO
6	FRAILTY
7	THE TOUCH
8	SPY KIDS 2
9	BLOOD WORK
10	PROSTI

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	0
2	BLOOD WORK
3	PROSTI
4	THE TOUCH
5	MR. DEEDS
6	BESTMAN
7	THE TUXEDO
8	FRAILTY
9	BIRTHDAY GIRL
10	HUBAD NA MULTO
11	SPY KIDS 2
12	LOLLIPOP

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	FRAILTY
2	BLOODWORK
3	0
4	MR. DEEDS
5	THE TOUCH
6	THE TUXEDO
7	LOLLIPOP
8	PROSTI
9	TUXEDO
10	ENOUGH
11	BIRTHDAY GIRL
12	BESTMAN

SM MEGAMALL

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1	THE TUXEDO
2	BLOOD WORK
3	THE TOUCH
4	MR. DEEDS
5	FRAILTY
6	0
7	BIRTHDAY GIRL
8	SPY KIDS 2
9	BESTMAN
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11	PROSTI
12	LOLLIPOP

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

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2	FRAILTY
3	LOLLIPOP
4	BESTMAN
5	MR. DEEDS
6	THE TOUCH
7	BLOOD WORK
8	THE TUXEDO

SM SOUTHMALL

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2	BLOOD WORK
3	THE TUXEDO
4	MR. DEEDS
5	HUBAD NA MULTO
6	PROSTI
7	BESTMAN
8	THE TOUCH
9	0
10	LOLLIPOP

SM CITY CEBU

2313878

1	TUXEDO
2	ENOUGH
3	SPIDER
4	SIMONE
5	REVELATION
6	PROSTI
7	BESTMAN
8	THE TUXEDO

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	REVELATION
2	CLOSED
3	K-19
4	BESTMAN
5	ENOUGH
6	THE TUXEDO
7	CLOSED
8	SIMONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	THE TUXEDO
2	MR. DEEDS
3	SPY KIDS 2
4	PROSTI
5	BIRTHDAY GIRL
6	BESTMAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

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2	THE TOUCH
3	THE TUXEDO
4	BESTMAN

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	THE TOUCH
2	BESTMAN
3	THE TUXEDO
4	MR. DEEDS

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	REVELATION
2	SIMONE
3	BESTMAN
4	SPY KIDS 2
5	THE TUXEDO
6	ENOUGH

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1	SOON TO OPEN!
2	4 NEW
3	STATE-OF-THE-ART
4	VISION & SOUND

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2	4 NEW
3	STATE-OF-THE-ART
4	VISION & SOUND

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10 Auto Audio 5.1 system on the Mainstage floor

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MR. DEEDS
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MR. DEEDS

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9	BLOOD WORK
10	ENOUGH

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4	"O"
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7	TUXEDO

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1	BLOOD WORK
2	TUXEDO
3	"O"
4	BIRTHDAY GIRL
5	THE TOUCH
6	K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
7	MR. DEEDS
8	PROSTI

Novaliches

935- 3229 - 30

1	BLOOD WORK
2	TUXEDO
3	BIRTHDAY GIRL
4	"O"
5	THE TOUCH
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7	MR. DEEDS
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6	BESTMAN

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3	MR. DEEDS
4	BESTMAN
5	TUXEDO
6	MR. DEEDS

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

PMPC STAR AWARDS FOR TV

Smooth, but long and late as usual

By Marinel R. Cruz

ORGANIZERS of the 16th PMPC Star Awards for Television on Oct. 12 at the University Theater in UP Diliman can teach other award-giving bodies a lesson or two on how to run an awards show smoothly.

But the PMPC should also learn a lesson or two on how to keep it sweet and short.

Though the PMPC show was scheduled to start at 6 p.m. but actually kicked off almost two hours late and lasted for five hours, there were no technical problems that stopped embarrassed stars in the middle of their number or other blatant errors that left hosts and presenters fuming.

In the Manila Film Festival awards show last June, technical glitches had made Megastar Sharon Cuneta stop in the middle of her song and leave the stage. Host Dina Bonnevie got piqued when her presenter son Oyo Boy Sotto was introduced by mistake as Piolo Pascual.

The Star Awards show, which had five pairs of hosts, opened with Charlene Gonzales in a highly charged dance number.

Cohosts Regine Velasquez, Pops Fernandez, Ai-Ai de las Alas, and Gretchen Baretto had their own equally elaborate production numbers later in the show. Their male co-hosts were Bong Revilla, Pascual, Dingdong Dantes, Boy Abunda and

Philip Salvador, respectively.

Baretto and Pascual were heralded as Stars of the Night.

Philippine Movie Press Club president Nora Calderon presented the Aiding Fernando Lifetime Achievement Award to Queen of Talk Lourdes Jimenez-Carvajal (a.k.a. Inday Badiday) for her contributions to show business as talk show host.

Inday Badiday rose to fame in the late '70s through her top-rating shows like "Superstar," "In na In" and "Eye to Eye."

Witty hosts

Among the hosts, Abunda and De las Alas were the most effective. Their witty remarks made the five-hour-long show

SMOOTH/A29

John Lapus sued for libel

By Agnes E. Donato

LIBEL charges were filed against comedian and show biz reporter John Lapuz for mentioning on air the names of two contractors who sold a townhouse unit to actress Shiela Ysrael allegedly even when they had no licenses and other requirements.

Spouses Enrique and Geraldine Locsin filed the complaint before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office last Wednesday.

Also charged were producers, the director and concerned editors of the show biz talk show "The Buzz," which is aired Sundays over ABS-CBN. Only Lapuz was named in the charge sheet.

The complaint stemmed from a segment of "The Buzz" aired last May 5, in which Lapuz reported that Ysrael had bought a townhouse unit from the complainants who, he said, did not have the proper requirements and licenses from the government.

"The respondent even exclaimed: 'Mag-ingat kayo sa mag-asawang Enrique at Geraldine Locsin, huwag kayong magpapaloko,'" the complainants said in their joint-affidavit.

"We are bona fide contractors and quiet private individuals who have acquired well-deserved goodwill in the construction business," the Locsin couple said in their complaint.

"The defamatory remarks against us by these unforgiving media personalities have severely prejudiced our business and livelihood and caused us to suffer tremendous actual pecuniary and moral damages," the Locsins added.

The Locsins earlier filed libel charges against Ysrael, also for Lapuz's statement.

But in her counter-affidavit, Ysrael denied that Lapuz had interviewed her for his report.

She also said she did not authorize him to quote her.

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B1



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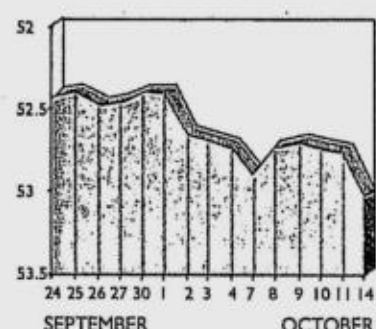
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BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Fresh worries push T-bill rates higher

INDICATORS CURRENCIES



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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 14, 2002

Y 124.04 = \$1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 11, 2002

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Stocks end lower on Bali, Abu news

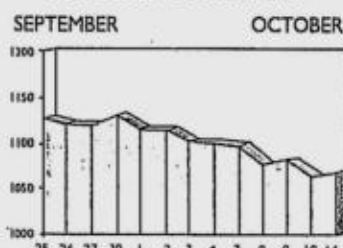
SHARE prices dipped yesterday as sentiment was undermined by weekend bombings on the Indonesian resort island of Bali and fresh fighting between troops and the Abu Sayyaf in the South, traders said.

Further weakness in the peso, which was hit along with other Asian currencies in the aftermath of the Bali attacks, also increased anxiety.

The peso touched a fresh 14-month low of 53.03 to the dollar, before rebounding slightly, aided by central bank intervention, currency traders said.

"I guess it (the market weakness) is (based on) what transpired in Indonesia and the peso is also down as a consequence, in line with regional weakness,"

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4) said Oliver Plana, AsiaSec Equities head of sales.

The main index closed down 4.68 points, or 0.44 percent, at 1,067.51.

Turnover was a dismal P110.97 million after posting just P126.57 million last Friday.

"Everybody wanted to stay out today," Plana said, noting many

TRADING/B2

By Clarissa S. Batino

TREASURY bill yields went up across the board as banks sought a higher return for the money they lend to the government at this time of volatile exchange rates and increased uncertainty caused by the terrorist bombing in Bali, Indonesia.

The benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate rose by 6.7 basis points to 5.288 percent, the 162-day went up by 27.7 points to 6.366 percent and the one-year rate increased by 21.9 points to 7.06 percent.

The government raised P7.54 billion from the auction yesterday as the government awarded all P3.5 billion for the 91-day bills

but accepted only P2.11 billion for the six-month papers and P1.93 billion from the 364-day instruments out of P3 billion and P2.5 billion in tenders.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the rates moved within expectations.

Traders said the government's cost of borrowing would continue to go up in the succeeding auctions, especially if external events would continue putting pressure on the local currency.

A trader from a foreign bank explained that during periods of a weakening peso, the government pays a higher rate for its borrowings to prevent banks from using their excess funds speculating in the foreign ex-

change market.

Aside from external factors and the peso, the government's cost of borrowing is also expected to go up as the budget deficit increases. As of August, the budget gap had widened to P144.03 billion and the level was seen to have increased to P160 billion by end-September.

The Bali bombing, the deadliest terror attack since last year's Sept. 11 assault on the United States, was expected to add to US investors' jitters.

Analysts have said the Saturday night explosions, which killed mostly foreigners, would further aggravate the core economic problem facing the region.

Text messaging: Modern-day curse or blessing?

By Abigail L. Ho

"TEXTING" has become a way of life for most Filipinos.

Text messaging has lately even become a powerful medium for political empowerment. Last year, the

Napalm-like explosion of text messages about a move by senators allied with then President Joseph Estrada to suppress key evidence in Estrada's impeachment trial sparked a spontaneous uprising that eventually brought down the Estrada administration.

On average, Filipinos send about 130 million to 150 million text messages a day, or about 240 messages per subscriber a month. In Hong Kong, the monthly aver-

age is placed at a mere four messages per subscriber. These numbers have catapulted the Philippines to the top of the texting world.

Not to overlook an obvious cash cow, local cellular service providers have been quick to cash in on the Filipino's penchant for texting. Both Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications Inc. have started offering SMS-based applications that range from ring tones and logos to text raffles and trivia games.

These were good for consumers, as they were given more things to do with their mobile phones. It was even better for the

providers, as they raked in truckloads of cash from their promotions and services.

While it seemed that a balance between customer and carrier satisfaction had been reached, problems began to surface—problems that consumers had to solve by themselves.

Before, only e-mail accounts had them. "Spam" mails were basically unwanted e-mails that offered goods and services that an e-mail user did not even sign up for. With the Philippine text messaging frenzy, it was not surprising that "text spam" began infiltrating unsuspecting subscribers' mobile phones.

Philippine League for Democratic Telecommunications Inc. (PLDTI) president Jonathan

Domingo said "text spam" was one of the most annoying things to have sprung from the carriers' move to cash in on text messaging.

"These messages sometimes come in the dead of night or in the wee hours of the morning. Sometimes, even if you unsubscribe from the service, you'll still receive the annoying messages. More than the inconvenience and the annoyance, I'm concerned about subscribers' privacy. Globe and Smart could well be giving our numbers away without us knowing it," he said.

Globe's senior vice president for corporate and regulatory affairs, Rodolfo Salalima, was quick to defend the carriers, saying these text

TEXT/B3

B-One

Smart Communications Inc. have started offering SMS-based applications that range from ring tones and logos to text raffles and trivia games.

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Stocks end lower ...

From page B1
players would want to wait and see how Wall Street reacted to the news later on Monday.

The blue-chip Dow Jones Industrial index shot up more than 4 percent last Friday but the Bali attack, branded as terrorism, was likely to cause fresh

jitters among American investors already unnerved by a potential conflict in Iraq.

Losses by the country's largest electricity distributor Manila Electric Co. helped drag Manila's main index lower.

The "B" shares, open to foreign and local investors, shed

50 centavos to P25 on top turnover of P17.4 million.

"We are seeing a lot of investors who see no chance of the company getting a rate hike this year seeking to sell their holdings," Plana said.

The firm was supposed to have had a decision on its rate increase application by the end of June but the industry regulatory body has yet to decide on the issue.

Most Asian share markets were pushed higher yesterday following the powerful US rally at the end of last week. Reuters

BIGSHOTS of government outfits whose names ring with "ka-chiling"—the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs—trooped recently to Malacañang.

Reports are not sketchy on their business in the official house of Gloriaaeta. In fact, it was clear that those big men of the cash bureaus were there to talk about cash.

From what I gathered, Gloriaaeta herself demanded that, every month, those large cats—personally—should report to her directly on their collection.

That, in business schools, is known as "hands-on management." With these hands, I will bring to you, sure, but down here we just know it as "panic time."

THIS cute administration, as everybody knows, is racing against time. It has barely three months to catch up on its revenue collection targets for the year 2002.

It is going over the limit on the budget deficit it set for itself. The main reason is, somehow, the BIR and the BOC just kept on missing their collection targets.

Thus Gloriaaeta herself wanted to look

With these hands-on

BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

closely at their performance. In fact, that recent meeting in Malacañang was the second of such monthly face-to-face rap sessions.

My source, however, could not say if, on that very day, the parking area of the Palace suddenly looked like an out-and-out inventory lot of "Toys for the Big Boys."

THAT was the famous store that sold expensive cars. It is not known if the bigshots of the BIR and the BOC were brave enough to use theirs, when they meet with Gloriaaeta.

Anyway, business may be glad that Gloriaaeta is going hands-on in trying to solve this little problem on revenue collection. And that is, it is very, very poor.

To business, it's clear she makes time for the important things, such as raising the cash, even if her meetings with BIR and BOC bigshots are not exactly photo-ops.

While she happens to be there, just when cameras click in media appearances of crime suspects, her handlers make her shy away from publicity when it comes to taxes.

BUT many in business say Gloriaaeta must continue with these hands-on things, particularly with the BIR and the BOC, at least until the collection problem is out of the way for 2004, este, this year.

That way, the ka-chiling bureaus should do better. It's hard to be lazy, or awfully corrupt, if you know you must report directly to the President next month.

It's just that, well, Gloriaaeta's battles with the government's cash problems are less known, since like that meeting in Malacañang—they are not front page material.

And so, even in business, a lot of people think that Gloriaaeta is not doing anything but trying to get a headstart for 2004. Nobody knows just what exactly she does.

IF I may, therefore, in that recent meeting in Malacañang, some BIR and BOC bigshots got a mouthful from the Taray Queen herself.

For instance, the BOC has this so-called "big four" revenue sources. Three of them happened to have posted bigtime shortfalls for the month.

They were the Naia, the Port of Manila, and the Manila International Container Terminal. Somebody in the BOC blamed wholesale tariff cuts and low import volume.

Gloriaaeta almost sounded cool when she noted that other ports faced the same trou-

bles, and how come they exceeded targets, and those three fell short? Blank face!

IF they were trying to fool Gloriaaeta, obviously, those BOC bigshots did not succeed, much like certain BIR regional district officers, who are known as RDOs.

Sure, Gloriaaeta must have felt elated that the RDO in her home province, Pampanga, even exceeded its target—despite lahar season and all.

But a couple RDOs in Metro Manila, such as Quezon City, missed their targets, plus the BIR's special forces, called "big taxpayers unit," seemed to have slept on the job.

See, the BIR always finds it hard to collect taxes from the big boys. They have first-class tax consultants and top tax lawyers, plus strong "connects" in the bureau.

IT seems only yesterday, but it was actually 15 years ago, when a small group of Negrenses in Metro Manila, with the help of friends, organized the Negros Trade Fair.

At that time, images of starving children from the land of sugar, meaning, Negros Occidental, assaulted the conscience. They were the main reason for the trade fair.

The first fair was held at a little car park, as a simple marketing tool for handcrafted things coming from Negros. Bet on it—they were MADE in Negros.

For that meant jobs for the sugar industry workers whose families starved with the collapse of their industry then. The Negros folks figured out it was time to diversify.

FIRST started as hobbies for the housewives, many of those handicraft ventures in Negros are now, some 15 years later, aggressive exporters. As in, "dollars!"

Take Marivic Rio, who owns a ceramic factory in Negros. This woman already took her goods to the Milan trade fair in Italy. No help from the government, mind you!

She and other Negros entrepreneurs brought some nine containers of goods to Milan. They sold everything. They also got orders for seven more containers.

As of last count, out of the 70 plus members of the ANP or the Association of Negros Producers, 32 are now exporters, with 15 of them housewives. Lucky husbands!

ANYWAY, my friend Joey Gaston, born and bred in Negros, himself active in the ANP told me that many of the new entrepreneurs do not want to go into the export business.

Well, to begin with, Joey said, they cannot even handle the local demand. Now I must point you to Pepe Ledesma, who runs a chicken processing plant in Bacolod City.

The plant has an accreditation by McDonald's. Pepe hopes to duplicate his Mcdo deal with other, well, what he calls "institutional" clients.

In other words, he will do for you, if you have a business of your own, anything you want done with the chicken. Just pay him so that he can pay his workers.

On one condition: He must do everything in Negros.

AND the thought occurred to me, maybe, just maybe, other provinces could use the many many Pepes and Marivics of their places.

Maybe then we don't need to import everything from Thailand or China, and we can make everything cheap here, too, even things like waste cans, which we import.

Me, recently, I started going to the tailor again, instead of buying ready made clothes. I decided I'd rather give the work to a Filipino than somebody in Bangkok.

Destiny poises new suit vs Star

By Abigail L. Ho

DESTINY Cable Inc. will compel program provider Star Group Ltd. to pay P12.5 million in damages and even file another court case if the latter decides to go on with its planned channel pullout today.

A person familiar with the matter disclosed yesterday that Destiny would turn its petition for a 20-day temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction into a petition for mandatory injunction that would force Star TV to resume channel feed despite the expiration of their contract yesterday.

Destiny's president and chief executive David Lim said in an interview that should Star TV choose to defy the court's TRO and still pull the plug on the cable operator today, Destiny would have no other choice but to file another case.

"Star has already defied the NTC (National Telecommunications Commission) by not stating the reason for its refusal to renew its contract with us. This will just test how far they will go to defy the government," he said.

During yesterday's hearing at Branch 137 of the Makati RTC, the Star Group stood by its resolve not to extend Destiny's contract to carry five of its top-rating channels—ESPN, Star Sports, Star World, Star Movies and National Geographic—and cited "private rights" as its reason.

In a letter issued to three newspapers last week, Star Group's vice president for corporate affairs and publicity Jannie Poon said its decision not to renew its contract with Destiny was a "commercial decision and was made solely for commercial reasons."

However, Poon did not specify these commercial reasons and even reiterated that its contract with Destiny would not be unexpectedly terminated but would just expire without being renewed.

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The class dynamics in our batch is fantastic. I really learned a lot from my classmates. Not only are the fields of interests diverse, but even the age factor was a learning experience. The CAN and other group activities that we had really honed our ability to work with others, differences in personalities notwithstanding."

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EMBA Manila I (with Distinction)
Production Manager, Jollibee Foods Corporation.

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SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129		
AS OF OCT. 14, 2002		
	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,500,000	
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,700,000	
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	720,000	680,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	80,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000	250,000
6. CANLUANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	550,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	120,000	90,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	180,000	170,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	400,000	380,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	190,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	130,000	300,000
12. EAGLE RIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	330,000	
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. LUISITA GOLF CLUB	400,000	
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	270,000	250,000
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	270,000	10,500,000
21. MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP)	13,000,000	
22. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	2,800,000
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	600,000	
24. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	700,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	100,000	
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
27. MT. HALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	350,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" "B" "C"	Please call	Please call
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	150,000
30. RIVERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	210,000	
32. RIVERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	360,000	320,000
33. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,650,000	
34. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND.)	250,000	
35. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	850,000	600,000
36. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	750,000
37. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	
38. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		310,000
39. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	6,900,000	

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Text messaging ...

From page B1

messages were intra-network services and did not entail giving out subscribers' cellular phone numbers.

He explained that subscribers had the option to get out of the promo or service if they wanted to just by sending one simple text message.

TXTPower spokesperson Anthony Ian Cruz complained, however, that both Globe and Smart were not exerting enough effort to inform their subscribers how much a reply to these messages would cost.

"Replying to these messages cost around P2 to P5 per message, yet the carriers don't even care enough to actually inform us," he said.

Smart's public affairs head, Ramon Isberto, said, however, that ample information were afforded the public through print, TV and radio ads, as well as flyers and posters distributed and posted all over the country.

He explained that subscribers who did not want to join whatever contests and promos they learned from unsolicited text messages could just as easily terminate the service free of charge with, like Salalima said, a simple text message.

'Pure Txt' pure scam

A wide array of SMS-based applications is not the only thing that cellular service providers are coming up with to retain existing customers and attract potential ones.

Smart, for example, has introduced the "Smart Money" card that serves as a debit card connected to a subscriber's bank account. This can be used for shopping, bills payment and reloading credits into a depleted prepaid cellular service account.

This innovation has brought recognition not only to Smart but to the Philippines as well because it boasts of being the first of its kind in the world.

But not all cards are created equal. Smart may have reaped quite a number of awards abroad for Smart Money, but it has also elicited countless complaints from irked subscribers with its "Pure Txt 100" card.

The Pure Txt 100 card allows prepaid

subscribers with zero call and text credits to still use their mobile phones for text messaging for only P100. The catch: All call functions will be disabled, including incoming calls and calls to Smart's customer service hotline.

"This card is absolutely evil," TXTPower's Cruz said.

Isberto admitted that, in some of the earlier publicity materials for Pure Txt 100, Smart might have neglected to say, in crystal clear terms, that those who were using the cards would no longer get incoming calls.

After getting swamped with complaints through the National Telecommunications Commission, however, Smart was quick to react by modifying its TV ads so that these would clearly say: "Mag-load na ng P300 call and text card para matawagan uli (Reload a P300 call and text card to start receiving calls again)."

Posters, flyers and print ads have also been modified to emphasize the disabling of call functions upon loading a Pure Txt 100 card's credits, Isberto added.

While he admitted Smart's initial mistake, he was quick to defend the card by saying that it was created to serve a niche market—people on tight budgets who still needed to be in touch with other people through their cellular phones.

"The Pure Txt 100 card is meant to be a transition card while a subscriber is encountering temporary cash difficulties. This is also one of our ways to keep our subscribers because prepaid SIM (subscriber identification module) cards that don't get fresh credits die after 120 days, and we can no longer restore those numbers. That's what we're trying to avoid," he said.

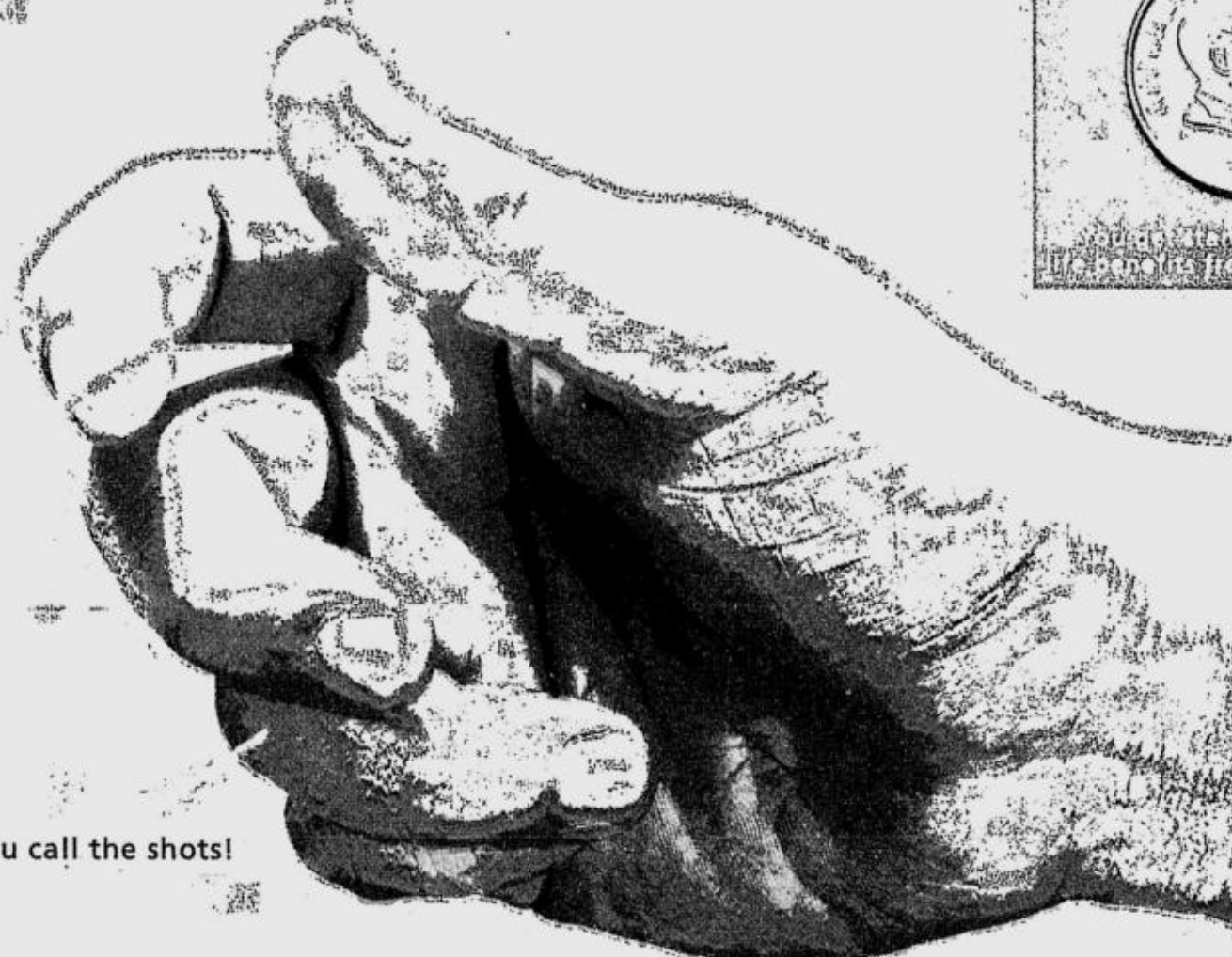
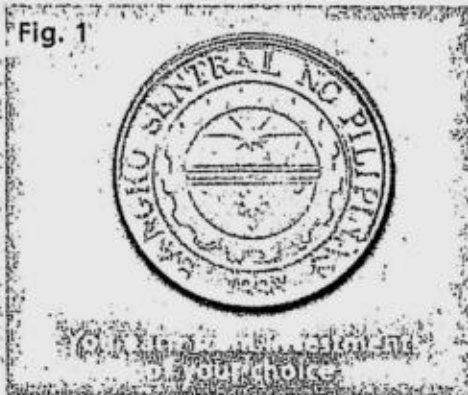
But Cruz said TXTPower was still dissatisfied with Smart's reasons, as it seemed that the cellular service provider was just trying to yet again milk its subscribers.

The consumer advocacy group was so dissatisfied, in fact, that it was seriously considering filing a case against Smart with the Department of Trade and Industry or even the court for misleading the public. (To be continued)

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Retirement fund acquires SMC shares worth P400M

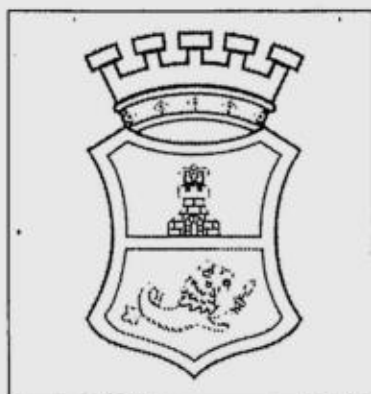
By Doris C. Dumlaio

AFTER selling the bulk of its shares in San Miguel Corp. to the group of retail tycoon Henry Sy, SMC Retirement Fund is again building up its shareholdings in the food and beverage giant.

On Thursday last week, the retirement fund bought 7 million SMC shares worth nearly P400 million through two separate block sales at the Philippine Stock Exchange, INQUIRER sources disclosed.

The first block sale last Oct. 10 consisted of 4.2 million worth of SMC "A" shares which were sold at P52.

The second block of some 2.8



million worth of SMC "B" shares were sold at P56.

Other sources said the seller was Dante Go, the former majority owner of powdered juice and

jelly snack manufacturer Sugarland Beverage Corp., which was acquired by SMC a few years ago.

SMC paid for the Sugarland stake in the form of cash and shares in the conglomerate.

SMC "B" shares closed yesterday at P57.50 while SMC "A" shares at P53, both up by 50 centavos over the previous close last Friday.

Ownership of SMC "A" shares is restricted to Philippine nationals while "B" shares are open to foreign buyers, thus, are usually priced higher than the "A" shares.

Industry sources said the SMC Retirement Fund went back to the market as current prices are

lower than the price at which it sold its shares to Sy's SM Investments Inc. (SMIC).

The retirement fund sold its "A" shares equivalent to a 6.2-percent stake in San Miguel for P55 per share.

The P9.6-billion deal was the largest stock transaction involving SMC shares since the \$540-million buy-in deal of Kirin Brewery of Japan, which acquired 15 percent of the blue chip last March.

With the sale of the big block to the SM group, SMC Retirement no longer has enough shares to occupy a board seat in SMC.

NOTICE OF TENDER OFFER TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF WILLIAM, GOTHONG AND ABOITIZ, INC.

To All Shareholders of William, Gothong & Aboitiz, Inc. ("WG&A"):

Please be informed that on September 23, 2002, Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. filed a Tender Offer Statement (SEC Form 19-1) with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code in connection with its intention to acquire 100% of the outstanding capital stock of WG&A which, as of September 12, 2002, comprised of 1,498,082,138 common shares at P 3.98 per share. Fifty percent (50%) of the consideration is payable in cash not later than ten (10) business days after the termination of the tender offer ("Payment Date"), while the remaining fifty percent (50%) of the consideration is payable in peso-denominated notes for a period of five years payable in forty-eight (48) equal monthly installments, with the first installment due on the last day of the thirteenth (13th) month after the Payment Date and subsequent installments due on the last day of each month thereafter, bearing simple interest on the diminishing balance of the principal at the rate of 12% per annum, which interest shall accrue from the date following the Payment Date and shall be payable in sixty (60) consecutive monthly installments commencing on the last day of the month following the Payment Date and subsequent installments due on the last day of each month thereafter; provided, however, that if any payment of principal or interest is due on a day which is not a Business Day, such payment shall be due on the next succeeding Business Day and such extension of time shall be taken into account in calculating the amount of interest payable on the relevant payment date. For this purpose, "Business Day" shall mean any day excluding (i) Saturday, (ii) Sunday and (iii) any day on which commercial banks in Cebu City, Philippines are authorized or required by law or other government actions to close.

Stockholders as of October 7, 2002 (the "Record Date") may tender all or a portion of their WG&A common shares for acceptance and purchase by AEV, subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, beginning at 9:00 a.m. of October 14, 2002 until 3:00 p.m. of November 22, 2002 (the "Tender Offer Period").

Tendering stockholders of WG&A who hold stock certificates ("Scrip Stockholders") should submit within the Tender Offer Period their duly endorsed stock certificates and two (2) copies of duly accomplished Application to Tender Shares together with the following requirements to ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (the "Depository"), 17th Floor, Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Telephone No. (02) 849-8888 (Contact Person: Nilaída S. Enriquez):

For corporate stockholders	For individual stockholders
1. Certified true copies of the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the stockholder and latest amendment/s thereof.	1. Two (2) valid identification cards containing the specimen signature of the stockholders.
2. A notarized Secretary's Certificate substantially in the form prescribed by AEV setting forth resolutions of the tendering shareholder's Board of Directors authorizing the tender and sale of the WG&A Shares and designating the signatories for the purpose.	2. For stockholders acting through an attorney-in-fact, a duly notarized Special Power of Attorney substantially in the form prescribed by AEV (N.B. Endorsement of stock certificates/s must be made by the stockholder himself).
3. A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signatures of its authorized signatories validated by the Corporate Secretary and verified by its broker or officer of the bank where it is maintaining an account.	3. A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signature of the stockholder and verified by his broker or officer of the bank where he is maintaining an account.

For the convenience of Scrip Stockholders based in Visayas and Mindanao, shares may be tendered by submitting the foregoing requirements at the Cebu and Davao branch offices of the Depository not later than November 15, 2002:

ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc.-Cebu Branch
Mezzanine Floor, TPG Center,
Escario cor. F. Ramos Sts., Cebu City
Telephone No.: (032) 255-1888
Contact Person: Cheryl M. Lim

ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc.-Davao Branch
Dr. #7 M.T. Aquino Building,
Cabaguio Avenue Corner Bolcan Street, Davao City
Telephone No.: (082) 224-2860
Contact Person: Miguel Luis R. Aquino

After November 15, 2002, Scrip Stockholders in Visayas and Mindanao may tender their shares only with the Depository's head office in Makati City.

The Depository will submit the share certificates for validation to WG&A's Stock Transfer Agent (BPI-Stock Transfer Unit, c/o Mr. Real Rodriguez, 4th Floor, BPI Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Telephone No. (02) 816-9321). Defective applications (e.g., discrepancy between the specimen signatures on file and the endorsement) must be corrected within the tender offer period to avoid being rejected by AEV. Hence, shareholders are strongly urged from tendering at the last minute to allow sufficient time to correct any deficiency in their application. Shareholders are also urged to indicate their telephone nos. in their respective application forms to allow the Depository and Stock Transfer Agent to inform them immediately of any deficiency in their applications.

Tendering stockholders of WG&A whose shares are lodged with the Philippine Central Depository Nominee Corporation ("PCD") ("Scripless Stockholders") should instruct their brokers to electronically transfer their WG&A shares to ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (the "Broker") for receipt by the Broker prior to 3:00 p.m. of November 22, 2002. The Broker shall hold the tendered WG&A common shares only as custodian for said shares.

Tendering stockholders shall have the right to withdraw any tendered WG&A common shares at any time during the Tender Offer Period. For a withdrawal to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be received by the Depository (for Scrip Stockholders) or by the Broker (for Scripless Stockholders) before 3:00 p.m. of November 22, 2002.

The Tender Offer is further subject to the terms of conditions described in the Terms of the Tender Offer. Copies of SEC Form 19-1 may be downloaded by the shareholders of WG&A from the AEV website: aboitizequityventures.com. Copies of SEC Form 19-1 and the tender offer application kit may also be obtained by WG&A stockholders from the Depository/Broker and the Stock Transfer Agent at any of their respective addresses stated above.

This Notice is published in compliance with Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code. Copies of this Notice, along with the Application to Tender Shares and the attachments, shall be sent to the stockholders by personal delivery or registered mail.

NOTE: YOU MAY CONSULT YOUR LEGAL AND/OR FINANCIAL ADVISER OR DIRECT INQUIRIES OR REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION TO THE DEPOSITORY OR BROKER.

(Sgd.) ERRAMON I. ABOITIZ
Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer
ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES, INC.

Metrobank leads Steniel creditors

By Doris C. Dumlaio

FOUR creditor-banks led by the Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. may move to foreclose the mortgaged property of debt-ridden Steniel Manufacturing Corp. which defaulted on the payment of its P851.5-million loan.

Steniel's legal counsel Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & de Los Angeles said the foreclosure of mortgaged property was one of the options open to Steniel's creditors following the default.

Steniel identified its creditors as Metrobank, Global Business Bank, Bank of the Philippine Islands and Chinatrust Commercial Bank.

Metrobank has a total exposure of about P258 million including the sums of principal and interests due under a revolving credit facility and a separate five-year syndicated loan.

Chinatrust is the next biggest creditor with an exposure of P253.7 million, Global Bank with P199.86 and BPI with P139.74 million.

PCI sells thrift bank

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINES' third-largest bank, Equitable PCI Bank, said on Monday it has agreed to sell its thrift unit, Ecology Savings Bank Inc., to East West Banking Corp. of the Goliath group.

Details of the deal were not disclosed by either side.

In a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Equitable said it signed a share purchase agreement to sell the unit to East West Banking, which is majority owned by Filinvest Development Corp.

Filinvest confirmed the sale in a separate disclosure.

Equitable shares were unchanged yesterday at P27.50. Filinvest Dev't was untraded after closing on Friday at P1.20.

The sale of Ecology, which has 30 branches nationwide, would expand East West's branch network from 39 to 69.

East West is a small-sized bank with a capital base of roughly P2.7 billion. With a report from Reuters

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, October 14, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	10,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	42.5	42	42	231,300
China Banking Corp.	630	630	630	630	330
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	28,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32.5	33	32	33	165,400
Security Bank Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	200
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	3,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1	1	1	1	5,000
Filinvest Fund Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	30,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1090	1100	1090	1100	1,710
Sun Life Financial Serv.	860	875	860	870	8,180
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.25	19.25	22,900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	1,660,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	430	430	430	430	10
Ipeople Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.021	0.021	0.019	0.019	13,500,000
Pitil	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	400,000
Phil. Long D's Tel Co.	260	262.5	257.5	260	57,100
Philweb Corp Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	22,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.5	20,300
Manila Electric Co. B	25.5	25.5	24.75	25	694,800
Petron Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	1,159,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.34	2.34	2.2	2.22	811,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	66,300
La Tondela Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	28,000
RFM Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	130,000
San Miguel Corp. A	52.5	53	52.5	52.5	65,800
San Miguel Corp. B	56.5	57.5	56.5	57.5	75,900
Universal Robina Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	13,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	110,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5	5	4.95	5	1,243,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	3,296,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	11,000,000
Bancotrust Cons Indus Inc.	7.6	10	7.6	10	9,000
Bengros Holdings Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,150,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	6,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	33,400
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	10,070,000
Mega World Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	550,000
Megaworld Holdings Corp.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	10,000,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	780,000
Philinvest Holdings Corp.	3	3	3	3	80,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	280,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6	6	6	6	1,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	50,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	119,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.34	0.36	0.33	0.36	640,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	70,000
Montdragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	250,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	73,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	195,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,390,000
EIE Realty Developers Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.14	2,640,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	2,223,000
Fit-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	2,500,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	78,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	35,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	620,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	2,000,000
Orinco Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	5,000,000
Phillex Mining Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	250,000
Phillex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	600,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	2,000,000
Pacific	0.008	0.011	0.008	0.011	3,000,000
Sonophill Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	200,000
Volcan Ind't	0.24	0.27	0.24	0.27	200,000
SHARES					
Bank & Fin Svc	477,820				24,980,375.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	81,417,810				80,796,850.00
PRO	9,311,000				4,536,370.00
Mining	8,520,000				446,000.00
OIL	5,400,000				90,200.00
GRAND TOTALS:	105,126,630				110,849,795.00
AVERAGES					
Bank & Fin Svc	418.83				DOWN 0.62
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,464.36				UP 0.23
PRO	487.17				DOWN 12.69
Mining	1,094.50				DOWN 5.96
OIL	1.24				UP 0.02
All Shares Index	605.55				UP 16.72
Composite	1,067.51				DOWN 4.68

CURRENCIES

Oct. 14, 2002					
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US\$	Foreign currency in Peso	
United States	Dollar	1.012453	1.000000	52.8130	
Japan	Yen	0.008164	0.008064	0.4259	
United Kingdom	Pound	1.582059	1.562600	82.5256	
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129807	0.128210	6.7712	
Switzerland	Franc	0.683490	0.675083	35.6532	
Canada	Dollar	0.638208	0.630358	33.2911	
Singapore	Dollar	0.564922	0.557973	29.4682	
Australia	Dollar	0.555439	0.548607	28.9736	
Bahrain	Dinar	2.686265	2.653224	140.1247	
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.269988	0.266667	14.0835	
Brunei	Dollar	0.563225	0.556297	29.3797	
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000111	0.0059	
Thailand	Baht	0.023084	0.022800	1.2041	
UAE	Dirham	0.275685	0.272294	14.3807	
Korea	Won	0.000810	0.000800	0.0423	
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.987700	52.1634	
Argentina	Real	0.273636	0.270270	14.2738	
Brazil	Real	0.257884	0.254712	13.4521	
Denmark	Kroner	0.134617	0.132961	7.0221	
India	Rupee	0.020979	0.020721	1.0943	
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.265464	0.263186	13.8996	
Mexico	New Peso	0.100193	0.098961	5.2264	
New Zealand	Dollar	0.486686	0.480700	25.3872	
Norway	Kroner	0.137373	0.135683	7.1658	
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017175	0.016964	0.8959	
South Africa	Rand	0.097257	0.096061	5.0733	
Sweden	Kroner	0.109660	0.108311	5.7203	
Syria	Pound	0.022906	0.022624	1.1948	
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.028878	0.028523	1.5064	
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000684	0.000676	0.0357	

ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT and THE WORLD BANK

DEVELOPMENT

RESOURCE CENTER



Enhancing Global Development Through Information and Communication Technology

Asian Institute of Management
and
The World Bank Philippines

The Asian Institute of Management and The World Bank Philippines inaugurate today the AIM-WB Development Resource Center - a member of a global network of distance learning centers under the World Bank's Global Distance Learning Network (GDLN) and an important center of development expertise, research and learning for the region.

The Global Distance Learning Network (GDLN) - Delivering Relevant Programs to the Right People

Through the GDLN, the World Bank Institute (WBI) and other content developers around the world deliver training programs and dialogues on development management-related topics ranging from governance to public sector finance, from health issues to environmental concerns. Among the knowledge fields that are being developed by WBI and other program partners for delivery through the GDLN include:

- Economic management and poverty reduction
- Environmental and rural development
- Governance and public sector reform
- Financial, infrastructure and private sector development
- Social sector and human development
- Other development learning skills and competencies including information and communications technology and knowledge management.



Through its network of distance learning sites around the world, the GDLN ensures that relevant development management programs are delivered and shared with people who could make a difference in their respective societies. To date, there are 47 distance learning sites around the world, linked by an expansive network of satellites and other communications technologies. As of 2001, programs delivered through the GDLN have reached over 20,000 development managers and leaders around the world.

The AIM-World Bank Development Resource Center

The AIM-World Bank Development Resource Center (DRC) is the first partnership between the World Bank and a private sector-owned academic institution. The partnership links the World Bank's extensive information and technology network and AIM's distinct capability to develop programs and courses in business, development, entrepreneurship and executive education.



The strategic alliance of AIM and the World Bank for the creation of the DRC will provide policy makers and the general public a range of facilities and services that will inspire advocacy and action through the latest knowledge and information on development through video-conferencing and other distance learning initiatives. The DRC is composed of the AIM-World Bank Global Distance Learning Center and the AIM-World Bank Knowledge for Development Center.

*Access to a global network,
across geographic borders,
time zones, and language barriers*

The AIM-World Bank Global Distance Learning Center

The AIM-World Bank Global Distance Learning Center (GDLC) is the first training facility in the Philippines with fully-dedicated video-conferencing capability linked to the World Bank's Global Distance Learning Network, a multi-channel network of private and government institutions providing learning programs through modern information and communications technologies. To date, the Network is composed of 47 Distance Learning Centers in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle East.



The AIM-World Bank GDLC is linked to the World Bank headquarters in Washington D.C. via a dedicated 256k ISDN line. The state-of-the-art learning facility utilizes the most-advanced communications technology surpassing international standards for video-conferencing. It has a total seating capacity of 45 with 30 dedicated computer terminals to facilitate hands-on, asynchronous learning sessions.

The AIM-World Bank Knowledge for Development Center

The AIM-World Bank Knowledge for Development Center (KDC) is a depository library providing the public with access to development-related publications of the World Bank and other institutions and organizations. Initially, the World Bank provided some 2,000 titles of print publications, CDs, videotapes and other media. Some 300 to 400 titles are expected to be added each year. The KDC also contains computer bays which provide access to online documents and reports of the World Bank. The Global JOLIS cataloguing system allows users to view the collection and access selected documents of over 60 World Bank public information centers around the world.



My warmest greeting and congratulations to the men and women of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) and the World Bank on the launch of the AIM-World Bank Development Resource Center.

This Center is a concrete example of the use of information and communication technology for the effective sharing of developmental ideas across nations. ICT is one of the cornerstones of our nation's development in today's global economy. I am glad that our country is part of this pioneering effort.

I would like to commend the AIM for taking the lead in this initiative and for giving the Development Resource Center a home in its campus. I also thank the World Bank for its confidence in our country and for selecting the Philippines as an integral part of their global learning network.

My best wishes to all of you for a successful launch. Mabuhay!

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines



On behalf of the World Bank Group, I would like to congratulate the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) on the inauguration of the AIM-WB Development Resource Center on October 15, 2002.

The Center reflects the strong relationship between AIM and the World Bank. It symbolizes the Bank's efforts to develop new and innovative partnerships with country-based institutions, and represents a shared commitment to harness technological advances to build a global network of partners for learning and knowledge.

I commend AIM for its efforts to establish the Center and create opportunities for learning and knowledge sharing that are cost-effective and readily accessible to a wide variety of stakeholders in the Philippines including government, civil society, business, academia, media and international development partners.

We recognize AIM as a dynamic partner in this pioneering initiative to foster cooperation and intensify opportunities for supporting sustained growth and poverty reduction in the Philippines.

James D. Wolfensohn
JAMES D. WOLFENSOHN
President, The World Bank Group



I wish to congratulate the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) on the inauguration of the AIM-World Bank (WB) Development Resource Center on 15 October 2002 at the Asian Institute of Management.

The opening of the AIM-WB Development Resource Center is truly a remarkable achievement in our part of the world. It will stimulate development thinking as it enhances access to knowledge and information on development.

I commend AIM for its unprecedented triumph in holding the distinction of being the first and only private academic institution in the world that has partnered with World Bank. May this achievement of launching a highly advanced resource center strengthen AIM's role as an essential center of development, research and learning and further accomplish and deliver an immersed, relevant and responsive management education in Asia.

Again, my congratulations, best wishes and prayers!

Corazon C. Aquino
CORAZON C. AQUINO
Former President, Republic of the Philippines
Member, AIM Board of Governors



I extend my warmest congratulations to the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) on the inauguration of the AIM-WB Development Resource Center on 15 October 2002 at the Asian Institute of Management.

The AIM-WB Development Resource Center is a testimony to AIM's dedication to improve its partnership capacities in developing learning opportunities and knowledge interactions towards sustainable development in the Asian region and beyond. This new facility highlights an exemplary WB-private sector partnership that the rest of the world can follow.

As countries engineer forward to a highly interactive world, I am confident the AIM-WB Development Resource Center will remain steadfast in its task of managing knowledge and information in Asia and the rest of the world. This promises to be a world-class initiative to harness information and communication technology for knowledge management and development.

Again, congratulations to AIM for this notable effort in elevating management education that is wide in reach and breadth, proof indeed that we can continually raise our abilities above the challenges of a global world.

Mabuhay and best wishes to all!

Fidel V. Ramos
FIDEL V. RAMOS
Former President, Republic of the Philippines



My congratulations to the Asian Institute of Management for the inauguration of the AIM-WB Development Resource Center on 15 October 2002 at the Asian Institute of Management.

The launching of this world-class facility is a landmark achievement in reaching higher levels of excellence in management education in Asia. I commend the men and women of this premier institution as well as the staff of the World Bank in pursuing the task of elevating education. The presence of such facility enriches education and makes it responsive to the technological world.

AIM has taken the lead by being the first private academic institution in the region to partner with the World Bank in promoting the use of knowledge for development. I hope that this state-of-the-art Resource Center will entwine the commitment to encouraging the use of technology for education. May today's inauguration fuel the engine that will truly make management education highly interactive, relevant and socially responsible.

Again, my congratulations and best wishes!

Edilberto J. de Jesus
EDILBERTO J. DE JESUS
Secretary, Department of Education



It is with pride that we welcome our business and development partners on the occasion of the inauguration of the AIM-WB Development Resource Center on 15 October 2002 at the Asian Institute of Management.

The launching of this highly advanced AIM-WB Development Resource Center is indeed a welcoming opportunity for AIM in asserting its destiny as a broad-spectrum institution that delivers relevant, responsive and internationally competitive management education. This new facility is likewise a remarkable gain from the unparalleled partnership between World Bank and an academic private institution, a first of its kind strategic alliance.

I strongly believe that the AIM-WB Development Resource Center would become an effective venue for the use of information and communication technology in strengthening the network of learning partners to share, develop and manage knowledge for regional development. Further, this Center would help elevate management education, one that is uniquely Asian and world-class.

Congratulations to one and all that make up the steering forces behind the establishment of this sophisticated facility. Let the AIM-WB Development Resource Center become a wonderful legacy and proof that we have set our mark in revolutionizing management education in the modern e-learning landscape.

Best wishes to all!

Washington SyCip
WASHINGTON SYCIP
Co-Chairman, AIM Board of Governors



I wish to extend our warmest welcome to our partners in the business and development sectors to the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) for the launching of the AIM-WB Development Resource Center on 15 October 2002.

May the opening of the AIM-World Bank Development Resource Center present itself as a noble opportunity towards strengthening AIM's commitment in delivering responsive and internationalized management education in Asia and across the globe. The establishment of such facility truly generates possibilities and prospects in nurturing professionalism, creativity and excellence in learning and information sharing and management.

At the onset of a largely interdependent world environment, I salute the minds and efforts that realized the creation of the AIM-WB Development Resource Center. It demonstrates an admirable drive to transform development management education into that which addresses emerging communication needs and imbalance in Asia and the Pacific. Consequently, may the distinct partnership of AIM and World Bank be the moving force in enriching regional cooperation and in facilitating learning attuned to the changing world.

My deepest congratulations to the men and women of AIM for this enduring accomplishment of being the first private academic institution partner of World Bank and for the building of the AIM-WB Development Resource Center. I believe that this feat will elevate the AIM management education experience and promote the use of learning technologies for genuine development.

Best wishes and more power to all!

Jose L. Cuisa, Jr.
JOSE L. CUISA, JR.
Co-Chairman, AIM Board of Governors



I take pride in welcoming our partners and stakeholders to the launching of the AIM-WB Development Resource Center on 15 October 2002 at the Asian Institute of Management.

AIM is delighted to be the strategic partner of World Bank in this first-of-its-kind collaboration by them with a private academic institution that has resulted in the establishment of the Center. This facility consists of a Knowledge for Development Center (KDC), a depository library providing the public with access to nearly 2000 volumes of development-related publications of the World Bank and a Global Distance Learning Center (GDLC), the first training facility in the Philippines with fully-dedicated video conferencing capability linked to the World Bank's Global Development Network, a worldwide multi-channel network of institutions within member nations of the World Bank providing learning programs through modern information and communications technologies.

The establishment of the AIM-WB Development Resource Center highlights the AIM's commitment to promote the advancement of Asian economies in an increasingly globalized world through knowledge sharing and the maximum use of information technology to address development management concerns and issues.

I once again take this opportunity to welcome you to the inauguration of the AIM-WB Development Resource Center as a tangible manifestation of our dedication to deliver relevant and responsive management education to Asia and beyond.

Mabuhay to all!

Roberto F. de Campo
ROBERTO F. DE CAMPO
President, AIM



P549-M economic projects gain support

LUCENA CITY—This southern Tagalog city is embarking on an ambitious partnership drive with the municipalities of Quezon Province via a P548.8-million food trading and e-commerce projects to develop its traditional role into an enhanced physical and virtual trading center.

This was announced recently by Lucena City Mayor Ramon Y. Talaga Jr. during the formal launching of the projects at the Intercontinental Hotel Manila, Makati City. The projects comprise three main components—a food terminal facility complex with on-site and remote common support facilities and amenities, an e-commerce and virtual trading system, and a road access support system.

DTI Regional Director Marilou Q. Toledo, Land Bank Region IV-B area head Jocelyn G. Cabreza, Alfonso J. Legaspi, president and chief executive officer of Textron Communication, Abelardo L.

Monarquía, DBP manager, RMO, and PCA administrator Danilo M. Coronacion pledged their support to the projects.

The Lucena City Food Market Terminal (LCFMT) will serve as the central trading and handling complex for all agricultural-based food commodities. This includes primarily a regional auction center, a slaughterhouse and a commodity floor trading area. Support facilities and amenities include handling and warehousing as well as financing and support livestock handling.

Being the nervous system of the whole system, e-commerce and the virtual trading system brings access to the trading system down to both the smallest and the biggest farmer. The combination of the physical and the virtual trading systems will also facilitate direct access to needed consumer products and production inputs better than physical trading activities alone can.

The road and bridge segments will serve as primary access routes to open direct road links from major highway routes to LCMFT. These infrastructures will enhance commodity flow with related important and primary support facilities for trade and distribution, especially with island-based partners and faraway Northern Luzon vegetable and fruit growers and traders.

The small farmers and producers of Quezon, including those in the Bicol Region and island provinces of Marinduque, Romblon, Masbate, Palawan and those from the Visayan provinces who bring their livestock to southern Tagalog's auction markets will directly benefit from the system. The stakeholders also include vegetable growers and producers of northern Luzon, specially those in Metro Manila who buy food products in bulk for institutional or final consumption.



YOUTH BUILD CLOSING CEREMONIES

Gillette Philippines Inc. (GPI) president and general manager Alan Simpson (second from right) shakes hands with Habitat for Humanity Philippines steering committee co-chair Margie Moran-Florendo (third from left) during the Youth Build 2002 Grand Dedication of Houses and Closing Ceremonies at the Soldiers Hills 1, Muntinlupa City. Gillette Philippines donated one house each

in Orchard Homes, Pulang Lupa Uno, Las Piñas City and in Muntinlupa. Other special attendees during the event were committee members Housing Secretary Mike Defensor, Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi and Youth Commissioner Bam Aquino. Also shown are HFHP managing director lawyer Joey Mendoza (left) and HFHP president Nards Leviste (2nd from left).



GPM-PANDAYAN CHAPTER LAUNCHED

Participants to the launch of Galing Pilipino Movement-Pandayan Chapter that coincided with the National Heroes' Day celebration at the historical Barasoain Church, salute the Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM), a private sector-led initiative promoting what is good and excellent in Filipinos. Present in the launch of its first provincial chapter are students, scholars and faculty from Notre Dame of Greater Manila, Marcelo H. del Pilar High School, Baliwag University and College of the Holy Spirit. Shown at the center are GPM founding president

Erlay de Guzman and Pandayan Bookstore owner Jun Cabochan. GPM's partnership with Pandayan Bookstore hopes to encourage and inspire the students and also the educators become our nation's modern-day heroes by being significant individuals and contributors to society as Galing Pilipinos. For particulars, call 843-7206, telefax 843-7207, visit Pandayan Bookshop or e-mail staff@galingpilipino.com or log on to www.galingpilipino.com. Sign-up and be a member.



'ANO ANG TOTOO?' TV PROGRAM LAUNCHED

The Defensores Fidel Foundation (DFF), an organization which clarifies issues confronting the Catholic faith today, recently launched a new TV program titled 'Ano ang Totoo?' at Sitio Diego in Quezon City. This program promotes and encourages all Catholics to further understand their belief and to deepen their faith and relationship with God. Shown (from left) during the press launch is Bo Sanchez (TV show host), Digoy Fernandez (DFF), Rod Reyes (DFF consultant) and Billy Rockwell (Charisms Advocacy and PR).



TAPA KING EXPANDS TO THE PROVINCES

Tapa King expands its operations to the provinces with the inauguration of its newest outlet located along McArthur Highway (fronting the Angeles University Foundation), Angeles City, Pampanga. The store opening is part of the company's expansion program and also in line with Tapa King's thrust of bringing its affordable and quality food products to other parts of the country. Shown

with Tapa King mascot Hapi-Tapi during the grand opening are (from left) storeowners Christine and Noel Sundiam, store manager Mar Yape, store supervisors Lorna Sancho and Elaine Pimentel, and marketing manager Jeffrey Joaquin. Tapa King, famous for its best-tasting 'tapa' that comes in three flavors, has now a total of 14 outlets, 8 company-owned and 6 franchised stores.

Offbeat travel mag to be launched

INTER-MEDIA Marketing Specialists (IMMS)—composed of dynamic people behind the well-received "Visitors' Guide to the Philippines" (VGP)—is soon coming out with Bakasyon, Gimik, Pasyal (Vacations, Events & Tours Philippines) or BGP, a unique quarterly travel magazine especially tailored towards business and leisure travelers, foreign and local alike.

With the objective of reaching out to a wider range of traveling-inclined readers from different age brackets, BGP is envisioned to become the most referred travel magazine in the country, so that it is deemed to have an exposure of 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The IMMS group had, for the past 9 years of working on the previously circulated VGP magazine, provided

every hotel room in the country the comprehensive guide to exploring the Philippines. Now, with a wealth of 20 years combined in the publishing industry, IMMS is committed to produce another quality publication with the new and broader-scope BGP magazine.

BGP is designed to be more than a just a travel magazine but everybody's guide to a more dynamic lifestyle.

"IMMS is repositioning the magazine, while upholding the same quality the magazine is known for, to be able to come up with a more comprehensive travel guide for a wider range of public," said Luchi Asuacion, publisher and managing director. "BGP is supported by various travel, hotel and restaurant associations in the Philippines."

BGP will be extensively promoted throughout the Philippines and in the region, and is deemed to do its share in promoting tourism in the country.

Targeting 60,000 readers per issue, 15,000 copies of the Bakasyon, Gimik, Pasyal Magazine will be selectively distributed to hotel rooms and resorts, airline lounges and business centers, travel and tourism associations, embassies and consulates, government bodies, trade shows, foreign embassies and trade representatives.

For inquiries and bookings, visit the IMMS editorial and advertising office at Unit 1109, Cityland 10 Tower 1, HV de la Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Call 753-2235 to 38, 812-9071, or e-mail luchi@globenet.com.ph.

Life Management Seminar

TO GUIDE the serious, the ambitious and those concerned for their own future and those of others, Corporate Mind presents "Bouncing Back From Past Mistakes," a life management seminar on Oct. 15, 16 and 17 (first batch) from 6 to 9 p.m., and on Oct. 27 (2nd batch) at the Summit Lounge, Manila Galleria Suites on ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Speakers include Josephine Gomez, Ding Solis, and Rey Lim. To register, and for more inquiries, call 687-7898 or e-mail corpmind@edsamail.com.ph.

Seminar on Barangay 5S

THE DEVELOPMENT Academy of the Philippines-Productivity and Development Center (DAP-PDC) is conducting the Seminar on Barangay 5S from Oct. 15 to 17 at DAP Tagaytay City. The seminar aims to enable participants to appreciate the significance of productivity and quality improvements at the community level, identify key areas in the community where 5S may be applied, and formulate action plans in implementing 5S programs and practices. 5S refers to Japanese words Seiri (sort), Seiton (systematize), Seiso (sweep), Seiketsu (sanitize) and Shitsuke (self-discipline). These promote organization, cleanliness and safety in the work environment. For inquiries, call 631-2167, 631-0921 to 30 local 167, or fax 631-2119.

PQPM 20th Congress

THE PHILIPPINE Quality and Productivity Movement Inc. (PQPM), an umbrella organization of productivity and quality organizations in the country, will hold its 20th National Quality and Productivity Congress on Oct. 15 and 16 at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. This year's Congress focuses on the theme "Breakthroughs in Tough Times" and will feature case presentations and messages from private and public sector P&Q advocates and practitioners. A major highlight of the Congress is the conferment of the Philippine Quality and Productivity Award (PQPA) to a president or CEO of a company or organization in recognition of his significant contribution in the field of quality and productivity.

'Elephant World' at Araneta

THE SPECTACULAR "Elephant World" takes place at the Araneta Center on Oct. 15. Seen for the first time in the Philippines, "Elephant World" features 10 Asian elephants performing in a 50-minute program showing their intelligence and amazing skills. Despite their size, the elephants will play soccer and basketball, perform musical instruments, stage acrobatic acts, and even paint on canvas. The elephants will be guided by their Thai mahouts or trainers. There will also be a chance to touch and even play with the elephants. Daily shows are scheduled Mondays to Fridays (except Tuesdays) 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays at 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets. For reservations and other inquiries, call Ticketnet at 911-5555.

AIDS media deadline today

THE AIDS Society of the Philippines, with support of the Ford Foundation Philippines, recently, announces the deadline of the AIDS Media Awards 2002 today, Oct. 15. The society invites all bonafide media practitioners working in the newspapers and magazines, TV and radio stations to vie for the Best AIDS News Feature in Print, Radio and TV. A special category, Best Cartoon/Editorial Strip is also open to all cartoon illustrators. All entries must be published or aired between Aug. 1, 2001 and Oct. 15, 2002. Grand prize winners of the four categories will be awarded an all-expense exposure trip to Bangkok, Thailand in January 2003 plus pocket money of \$500. Entries must be submitted to the AIDS Society of the Philippine office, Room 401, 4th floor, Dona Felisa Syjuco Building, 1212 Remedios, Malate, Manila or call 523-1334, 536-5694, 536-5509.

Ever celebrates 30 years

EVER Department Stores and Supermarkets, one of the largest retail chains in the Philippines, celebrates 30 years of retail success this October with a series of unique and exciting promos. Kicking off the anniversary celebration is "Drive Your Dream", which gives two lucky shoppers the chance to drive their dream car, a sleek Toyota Corolla Altis, during the grand raffle draw Jan. 5, 2003. Two preliminary draws on Oct. 26 and Nov. 23 entitles shoppers to win more than a hundred big-ticket items such as refrigerators, microwave ovens, VCD players, VCRs, cell phones and TV sets. For every purchase of P500 (single receipt) from any Ever department store or supermarket, a shopper can join the raffle. Until today, Oct. 15, the "Denim Fest"—a grand sale by leading denim brands features up to 50-percent discounts on selected items.

AIM-WB launches DRC

THE ASIAN Institute of Management (AIM) and the World Bank will formally launch the AIM-World Bank Development Resource Center (DRC) at the ground floor of the AIM campus in Makati City today, Oct. 15. The DRC includes the Global Distance Learning Center, a 45-seat classroom facility which allows videoconferences and the participation in distance learning with overseas training institutions and development agencies. The other component of the DRC is the Knowledge for Development Center, a public information center for over 2,000 volumes of World Bank publications, research, operational information, and development literature and multimedia learning materials. The Global Distance Learning Center was the venue of the recent global videoconference "E-Security: Risk Mitigation in Financial Institutions" hosted by the World Bank.

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REAL ESTATE

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Your annual income, times 8, to buy a house

By Tessa R. Salazar

IN BUYING a house, city-based households in developing countries need an average of eight times their annual income; in Africa, people need 12.5 times their annual income. In contrast, Latin Americans need only 5.4 times their annual income.

Real estate costs are highest in Asia and the Pacific, where one square meter of land for a serviced plot costs an aver-

age US\$3.1. Africa is at the lowest end of the real estate market with an average price of US\$0.15 per square meter.

These figures complicate the cost of living for the urban populace in less developed countries. And this population is expected to grow from 1.9 billion in 2000 to 3.9 billion in 2030. The data were revealed at the observance of World Habitat Day at the Quezon Memorial Circle Oct. 11.

State of human settlements

The first Monday of October has been set by the United Nations for the world to reflect on the state of human settle-

ments and the basic right to adequate shelter. The Philippines is an active participant of this UN agreement and is supposed to be committed to the improvement of urban poor residents and shelter security.

The observance in the Philippines was attended by UN-Habitat executive director Anna Tibajuka, among others.

Secretary Mike Defensor, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, cited the program for the homeless urban poor as an example of the government's commitment to this agree-

YOUR/B8



DEFENSOR and Tibajuka put finishing touches on a 20-sq-m model home made of steel frame and sugarcane bagasse. The technology is an initiative of the social housing foundation of Creba and Enviroboard Manufacturing Inc.

Playing golf the Ayala way

WHEN designing a golf course that is expected to attract a wide variety of players, every designer is faced with a dilemma—how do you make the course challenging enough for the best professionals or scratch-handicap players, without overpowering and frustrating the hackers and beginners among us? At Ayala Greenfield Estates, this was a particularly important consideration because the community's new all-weather golf course was intended to be an integrated amenity for all its residents, as accessible to anyone as the other amenities in the Ayala Land Inc. and Greenfield Development Corp.'s joint residential project in the south.

While most golf courses tend to offer little else other than distance in challenging its players, Robert Trent Jones Jr. and his team of talented designers fashioned the golf course at Ayala Greenfield Estates to demand strategic play more than brute strength to overcome the defenses laid out on each hole. Precise shot-making from both long and short range, careful club selection, choice of line and landing area from the tees and fairways, utilization of terrain to earn favorable positioning, as well as planning and precise execution in attacking the greens will be crucial in mastering the course.

Hole choices

The fairways are laid out to allow players a choice of position and landing area according to their ability. Hazards are deliberately placed to either tempt the player to make a bold shot to gain advantage or to intimidate him into resorting to a safe shot for a more conservative percentage play. A stronger player can go for the low-percentage play and a chance at birdie (while risking a double-bogey or worse), while an average player can play safe every time and go for

PLAYING/B8



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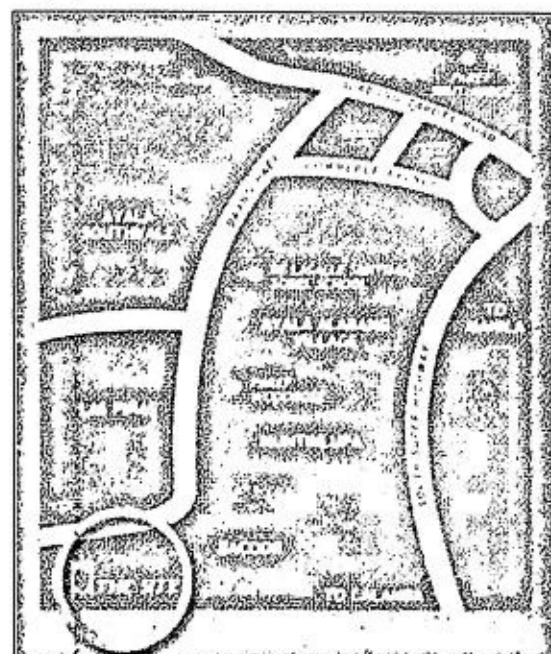
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New construction technology now in RP

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

THE TWO men were busy positioning several panels that will soon form the wall of a building. Behind them are several more panels awaiting to be installed. And both of them were just enough to accomplish a task that would have required several workers and machines.

The pair were among the several construction workers who are employing a new construction system that consists of wires and polystyrene or what we commonly call as styrofoam. Strange you say? Think prefabricated walls only many times lighter and when filled up and plastered with cement forms a structure six times stronger than a structure made up of hollow blocks and steels.

M2 is a newly conceived panel that is earthquake-resistant and has insulating properties. An M2 panel is basically made of a double zinc-coated steel wire mesh, both resistant and light, and a central layer of insulating material made from foam polystyrene. "The novelty of these panels lies in their potential use as a load-bearing formwork in the construction of walls and slabs as well as partitions, floors, ceilings and roofs," explains Robert Lee, president and general manager of Marathon Building Technologies, exclusive manufacturer and distributor of M2 integrated and monolithic construction system in the Philippines.

"It's fascinating that a simple concept could create a structure so strong, versatile and cost-effective it could be the future of building technology. Best of all its now here in the Philippines," said Lee.

Marathon's manufacturing plant, located in Barrio Bacabaling in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, is equipped with state-of-the-art machine imported from Italy. No less than the engineers of Emmedue Srl., the developer of the technology, came here to supervise the installation and training of Marathon's technicians.

The M2 is a 15-year-old patented technology by Italian company Emmedue Srl. Today it is widely used in over 26 countries including Malaysia, Germany, Russia, Australia, Israel, Mexico, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil and as remote as Antarctica where the technology is employed in Scientific Base Esperanza.



THE CONSTRUCTION period is lessened since the installation time is cut by half.

Flexible, extremely versatile

M2 is a flexible and extremely versatile system enabling the erection of earthquake-resistant buildings from up to 20 stories high as well as complex architectural structures. The M2 panels come in four basic versions:

• M2 single panel is employed for load-bearing walls of two- or three-story high buildings. It is also employed for partitions and internal or external insulating walls in either new or to be restored buildings. M2 single panel is also a disposable insulating formwork for roofs and slabs of small-sized spans, with or without designed ribs.

• M2 Double panel is a ready-to-cast, concrete applicable for load-bearing walls that needs no additional internal reinforcement to make buildings of up to four-stories high earthquake-resistant or when employed with additional internal reinforcement, it can be used for buildings much higher.

• M2 floor panel is employed in the erection of floors by placing integrative steel in the spaces molded for this purpose (like bar joists) and casting concrete.

• M2 stairs panel, consisting of a polystyrene block reinforced with two steel wire nets joined together by electrowelded wires, enables the erection of flights of stairs up to a maximum length of six meters. It is extremely easy to install because of its light weight and highly resistant structure.

A structure employing M2 is superior to any existing construction system, be it traditional (bricks, adobe or hollow blocks) or prefabricated. It combines many good qualities of both. Because of its light weight, it can be rapidly installed, is inexpensive, versatile in terms of its many applications, resistant to weight-related stress. It saves energy since it keeps the temperature inside constant, sound- and fire-proof and

builders can employ a variety of finishes. "It may sound unbelievable but this fairly simple construction concept can deliver all these features," assured Lee.

Using M2 would cut down construction and labor costs by as much as 25 percent and reduce construction completion time by as much as 50 percent. Filipino developers are slowly discovering the value of using M2 technology. "At first, there are reservations because of the simplicity of the technology—will the wire and styrofoam hold off?—but after closely studying the technology and looking for themselves the actual products, they quickly embrace the system," noted Maristela Soriano, Marathon's assistant to the president.

Right now, several developers have employed the M2 technology. They include G&P Building Technologies Inc. and Ability Design and Construction Co. that built the 3,500-seater Aliw Theater in Star City Complex, Pasay City; Empire East in building its housing units in Governor's Hills Subdivision in General Trias, Cavite; Techno Asia in its Isabelle Mansions in Parañaque City; and Megaworld, in its lifestyle project in Libis, Quezon City, to mention a few.

"Jollibee Foods Corp. is currently using M2 panels in the construction of their commissary in Canlubang, Laguna, and you can see the fast-paced progress they are doing there," observed Lee.

Easy installation

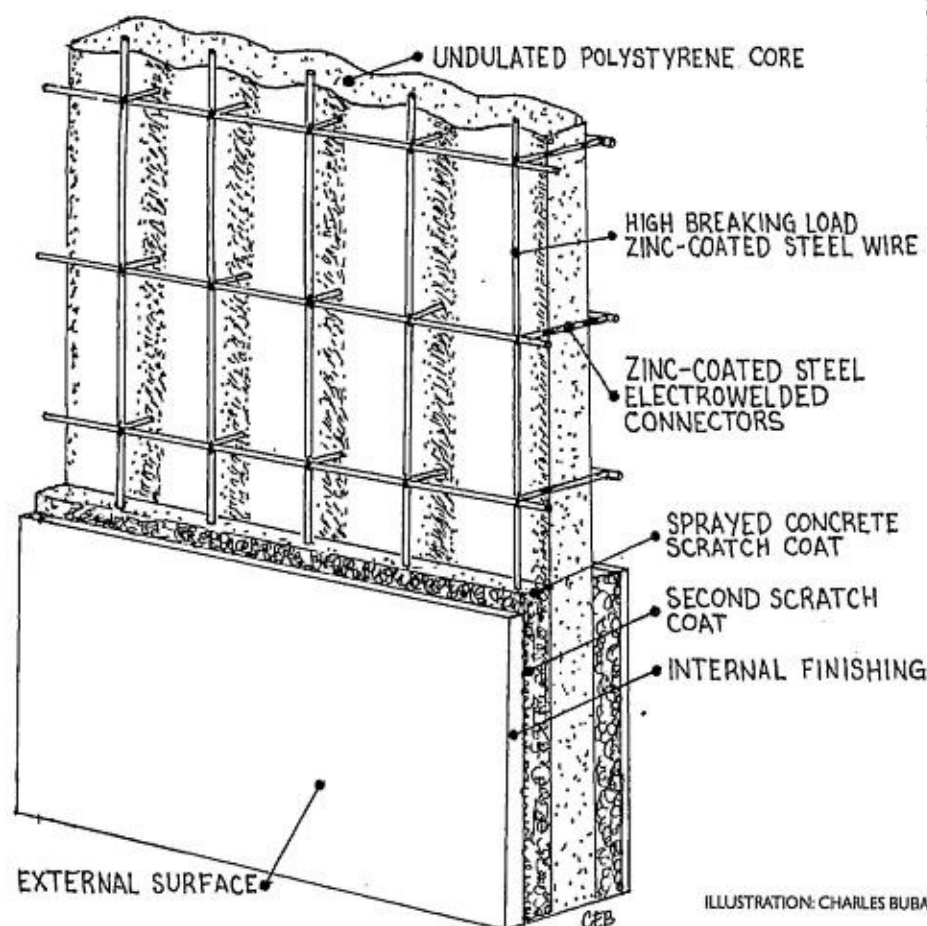
The panels are carried to the site where they are assembled. The panels may be placed by hand and are connected to one another by overlapping of reinforcement and with the help of metal clips. For the laying of

electrical wires, chases are made on the panels by melting the polystyrene behind the meshwork. After the assembly, the application of the finishing concrete on the exposed surface and on the intrados is carried out by using a spray gun fed by a cement pump. This is done in two phases after which a final layer of plaster is applied for the smooth finishing.

In case of multistory buildings, the sequence of phases must be repeated from deck to deck to avoid placing successive loads on the lower elements before structural concrete casting has properly settled. "Unlike conventional building materials like hollow blocks, the M2 panel is

precut according to specification. With simple rough-in installation, it cuts down construction and labor cost by as much as 25 percent. Using M2 panel also reduces completion time by as much as 50 percent. It requires unskilled labor and lifting equipment is not necessary since it is lightweight. But once installed, filled up and covered with cement, it possesses superior weather- and sound-insulating properties and toughness of up to six times that of conventional building material," Lee boasted.

Lee also added that they have highly trained technical staff who will assist the developers and constructors during installation.



CROSS-SECTION of a typical M2 panel shows the various layers including after the application of cement.

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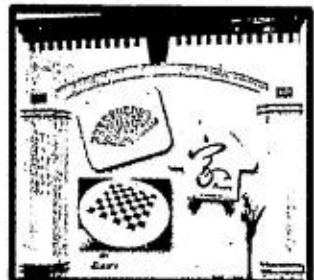
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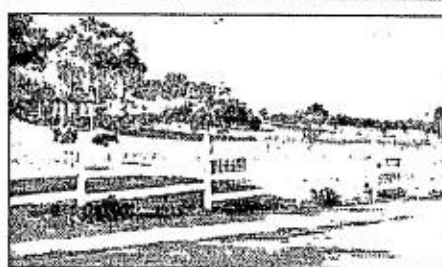
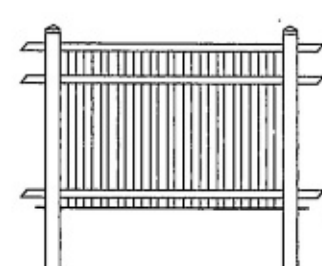


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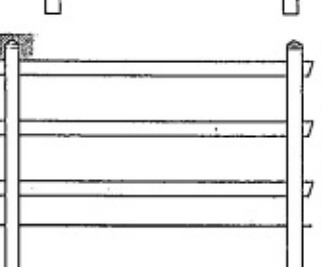
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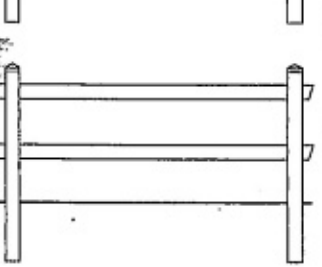
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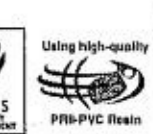
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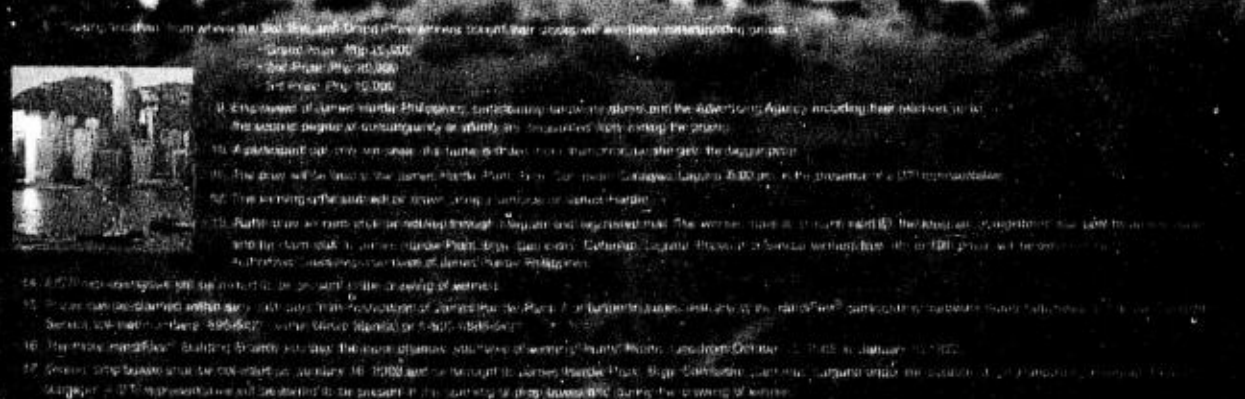
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HOLLYWOOD



James Hardie Philippines

Untapped Mindanao mart awaits developers

By Charles E. Buban

INVEST in Mindanao, where an untapped market awaits housing developers." This phrase could well be Mindanao's welcoming banner these days to anybody who wishes to help solve the country's housing backlog.

In a rare display of solidarity on a number of issues, Mindanao-based developers were able to put up five landmark housing agreements with key shelter agency leaders early this month to stimulate housing development in the island.

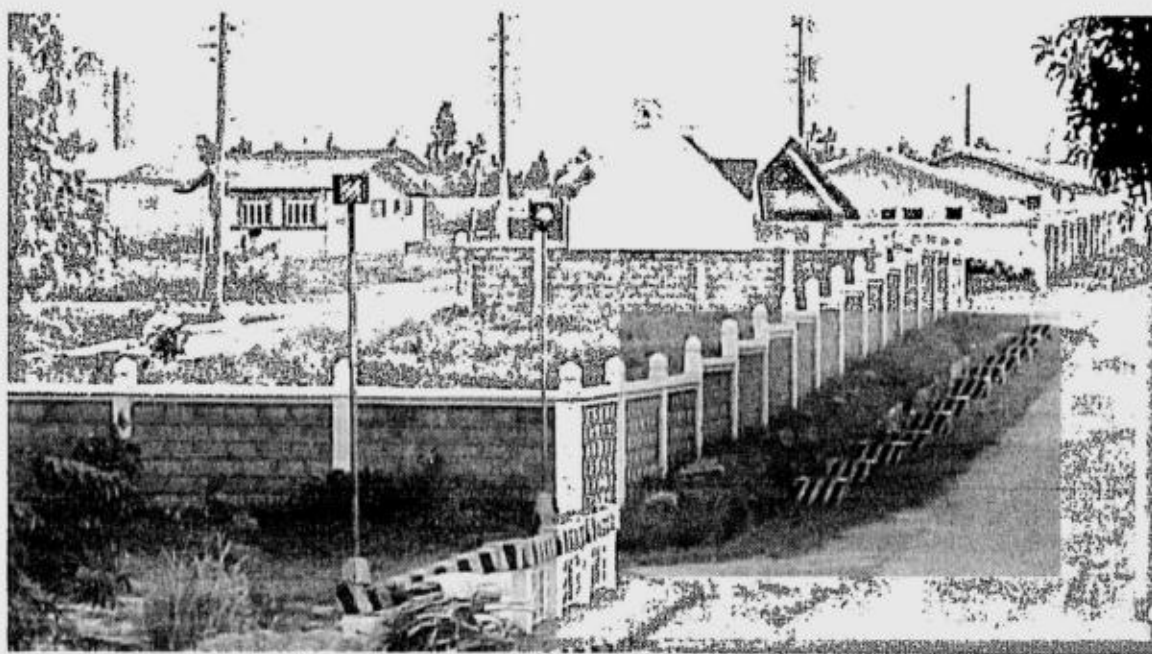
Housing agreements

These five landmark housing agreements are:

- Streamlining of housing rules from 40 pages of regulations to two pages of no-nonsense rules
- Issuance of the developer's certificate and registration and license to sell even without the DAR exemption clearance
- Lower interest rates (to as low as 6 percent) and increase to loan value ratios
- Allowing the takeout of units even without the DAR exemption clearance
- Participation of other real estate developer-based organizations to ensure the building of 100,000 housing units next year.

The agreement was forged early this month during the Mindanao-wide Developers Conference on Housing held in Davao City where 60 developers based in the island met with key shelter agency heads namely Davao Rep. Prospero Nograles, chair of the House committee on housing; Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board CEO commissioner Romulo Fabul; and Home Development Mutual Fund president and CEO Romero Quimbo.

The developers who attended the conference all belong to the Subdivision and Housing Devel-



DESPITE the economic crunch, housing development is alive and well in Mindanao

opers Association, the biggest organization of subdivision developers in the country. The group is led by its president, Jesus Atencio.

The event was set to coincide this month, declared Shelter Month by Malacañang. The same conference served as an invitation for other SHDA member-developers to go to Mindanao to help solve the housing backlog in the country. "Mindanao has a large untapped market waiting for interested (housing) developers. The recent initiatives agreed upon here will help clear the path for developers to build those needed units," said Atencio.

Focus on Mindanao

Nograles, who initiated the conference, said: "This year's celebration of shelter month assumes significance with the focus on Mindanao as a major location for housing and urban development...for many times, conferences of this nature are limited to Metro Manila."

Fabul reported that an overhaul of Batas Pambansa 220 and Presidential Decree 957 is now in the works. The HLURB is a national government agency tasked to plan, regulate and act as a

quasi-judicial body for land use development and real estate and housing regulation. BP 220 authorizes the HLURB to set minimum standards for socialized and low-cost housing projects while PD 957 sets regulations on the sale of subdivision lots and condominiums.

"We like to streamline the rules from the current 40 pages of regulations to only two pages, doing away with most of the specifications that anyway would require the buyer's approval, and concentrating on regulating only those situations that are life-threatening and those aspects of subdivision development that the buyer cannot see or determine," said Fabul.

In this regard, Atencio agreed to immediately convene an HLURB-SHDA task force to fast-track the streamlining of HLURB rules to only two pages. "We will help in any way we can to get this done with since this shortens the process, allowing our developers to accomplish their projects in no time."

In that conference, too, Fabul said the HLURB is allowing the issuance of the developer's certificate and registration and license to sell even without the DAR exemption clearance.

Package of reforms

In the same conference, Quimbo announced a package of reforms in end-user financing that Pag-Ibig Fund would implement soon. "Pending our board's approval, we shall lower the current interest structure on our loans to accommodate the bulk of our Pag-Ibig members and developers who have been asking for lower amortizations for low-cost housing projects," he promised during the conference.

Quimbo said the HDMF intends to offer 6 percent loans for house and lot packages costing P150,000 and below, 9 percent for P180,000 and below and 10 percent for P225,000 and below. "We are also planning to increase the loan-to-value ratio for these loan packages from the present 70 percent to 90 percent to 100 percent loan value with or without the developers' buy-back requirement."

Loan-to-value ratio refers to the amount one can borrow from the bank. With a 100-percent loan value, the borrower will no longer have to raise the down payment.

The HDMF is also pushing that loans up to P500,000 will use a 100 percent loan-to-value ratio for the buy-back window. "This

will encourage more developers to avail of our buy-back window that provides a 7-day express lane take-out processing," said Quimbo.

He also informed SHDA developers that Pag-Ibig Fund would allow the take-out of units even without the DAR exemption clearance.

Major hurdle

The conference also addressed the developers' pending papers before the Department of Agrarian Reform. Nograles acknowledged the long and tedious process involved saying this poses a major stumbling block to accelerated housing production. "DAR should explain why the issuance of the revised Agrarian Law Implementation (ALI) rules is delayed," the congressman added.

Both Nograles and the SHDA agreed to push for the presence of the developers in the DAR-Center for Land Use Planning and Policy Implementation based in Mindanao to speed up the process of approving the certifications and provide expertise.

The SHDA, in preparation for the Oct. 24 pledging session with President Macapagal-Arroyo, also announced the participation

of real estate developer-based organizations such as the Organization of Socialized Housing Developers (OSHDAP), Women in Shelter and Its Environment (WISE) and the Builders for Alliance Toward Action (Bata) in committing to build more than 100,000 housing units in Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and the National Capital Region (NCR).

"But at the end of the day, it is not about the numbers but on the sincerity of the developers and their dedication to pursue this pledge even in these times of economic difficulties, and the doability of the pledge," Atencio stressed.

All these housing agreements, said SHDA chair Teofisto Guingona III, are set to empower the SHDA to fulfill its commitment to produce at least 100,000 units for the Macapagal administration.

The country right now is suffering from a housing backlog of at least 500,000 according to the recent pronouncement of Secretary Michael Defensor, presidential adviser on housing.

"This is a milestone development here in Mindanao and we hope that the whole country can take its cue from what has just happened here."

Your annual.

From page B6

ment. The project includes the proclamation of public lands for the security of tenure for residents living in areas owned by the government for up to 50 years now.

Said Defensor: "It's only now that we are able to unleash the potentials of the public lands and for the residents to finally gain ownership of these areas. We have already proclaimed 32 areas with a total of 650,000 families. We now have pending 60 proclamations for about 8,500 hectares of land."

CMP scheme

The country's Community Mortgage Program, he said, matches the UN-Habitat's basic program, which is to pay the private owners of the lands that have been squatted on for a long time. The CMP gives loans to community associations for the purchase of land, site development and house construction at 6 percent interest over 25 years.

The CMP scheme is said to have worked well with the urban poor.

"Once we have paid the owners, the residents now pay us for a term of 25 years at a 6-percent interest rate," Defensor said, adding that the program not only benefits poor communities but the lot owners as well.

Other programs of similar nature at the National Housing Authority and the Pag-Ibig are now being implemented.

These programs are needed. The country's housing backlog stands at about 3.5 million, half of which come from the urban poor sector.

Tibajiuka stressed that the urban poor should always be included in addressing the problems of the poor, now that its numbers are growing rapidly. "With three-fifths of the world's population soon to live in urban areas, urbanization is inevitable," she said.

According to her, the major stumbling block in addressing the problems of the urban poor is its so-called "social exclusion," a

condition wherein opportunities and basic services are unavailable, or inaccessible, to the urban poor. This condition reduces the urban poor to mere recipients of charity work and dole-out programs.

To counteract this situation in the country, two global campaigns of the United Nations are being applied. These are good urban governance and "secure tenure." These campaigns are said to enable multisectoral convergence to create and develop "inclusive cities." Inclusive cities are habitations where everyone, regardless of wealth, gender, age, race or religion, is able to participate productively and positively in the opportunities cities have to offer.

"The 'secure tenure' also means (anyone) can make use of basic services, for example potable drinking water, accessible roads, decent housing and livelihood, near (his or her) place. This is the only time that we can say the housing program is satisfactory," said Ed Rancio, president of the POST-Campaign, representing the urban poor group.

Housing for employees

Defensor said President Macapagal-Arroyo called a meeting with the country's business taipans to encourage them to participate in the housing program. They were asked to form a consortium or to forge an agreement to develop unoccupied public land into government housing sites.

At present, several areas have been determined for this project, Defensor said. These include sites in Muntinlupa, Makati-Guadalupe, Taguig, Sucat, the Nagtahan property and the Paco property, both in Manila and a property owned by the Quezon City government.

Payatas, meanwhile, is under study by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The government, according to Defensor, is in the process of determining which of the area is to be put under the CMP



AYALA Greenfield Estates golf course

Playing golf the Ayala way

From page B6

the easy bogey and perhaps a chance at par.

Some of the holes have split fairways as in the case of holes 2, 4 and 13 to offer a choice for each player—superior approach positions to the green in exchange for riskier shots from the tees or fairways. Other holes, such as the Par 4, 15th hole will reward a courageous tee shot over water with an easy second shot to the green. Other holes, such as the Par 5 10th, may prove to be more rewarding when approached with restraint and accuracy.

Some holes may even appear deceptively short, such as the 480 yard, par 5 17th. But this windward, uphill fairway will test the golfer's skill in covering the 20-meter height difference from tee to green (equivalent to 5 floors!). Even the par 3s were designed to allow players the full range of shots from the tees. With lengths ranging from 131 yards to 197 yards, golfers will need both distance and direction to overcome natural hazards and man-made defenses surrounding the greens.

More forgiving

Although the course may sound intimidating to the average golfer, the designers have injected features that will make it more forgiving toward the occasional errant shot. Some fairways will have cross slopes along the edges that will tend to bring back the ball to the line of play offering the player a chance to make a recovery. Other holes will have large greens to serve as an easy target.

In addition, four tee positions for each hole allow players to attack the fairways according to their abilities. Aside from overcoming any distance challenges, some of the strategic decisions become easier from the middle tees than from the tips. Every player, whether hacker or scratch handicapper, will thus be able to find the right combination of tee position and playing strategy that will give him or her a fair challenge.

Unique setting

Apart from course's balance of challenge and playability, the unique setting will be one of AGE golf's most distinguishing at-

tributes. Wrapped around the base of one of AGE's prominent hills, the fairways are bordered by the hill's grassy slopes, wooded rills and cinder cliffs.

The fact that Trent Jones Jr. is known in golf circles as the "father of environmental golf design" and is involved in the preservation of cultural landmarks in some parts of the world made the choice of awarding the project to him easier for ALI and GDC which share this commitment to the environment.

Overall, it is envisioned that the AGE golf course will be memorable for its challenge, pleasurable in its variety and unique in its setting. Bobby Jones has designed the course to make players at all levels of expertise want to keep coming back to either test new strategies or for the simple pleasure of leisurely playing amid the wooded slopes and gentle breezes of Mt. Makiling. Not only that, rain or shine, players can enjoy the best of what the course has to offer since it's designed for all seasons. Sand-capping and under

drainage will allow rainwater to drain faster, allowing the play to resume soon after a heavy downpour.

Over at the Leisure Club, various relaxation and recreation opportunities await members, their families and guests. There's the spa and wellness center, a swimming pool, badminton and bowling facilities, a well-stocked food and beverage counter. These are separate from the recently completed village clubhouse and amenities of the subdivision.

Weekend getaway

The buzz among investors is that Ayala Greenfield Estates is going to be the ultimate residential weekend getaway south of Metro Manila—think "Ayala Alabang Village meets Tagaytay/Baguio."

Those who are looking to build their homes or retirement haven in Ayala Greenfield Estates will not be disappointed. When the development is completed, weekends at home will never be the same again!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2002

REAL ESTATE

B11

Brokers selling RP realty projects in US, Asia

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—No body is buying the most expensive property deals in the country today, so real estate brokers have started to sell them to expatriate Filipinos living abroad, the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations Inc. (Creba) told the INQUIRER on Wednesday.

About P10 billion worth of high-end condominiums and subdivision projects as well as specialized facilities like Camp John Hay's sleek P20-million log homes are being marketed by a US-based real estate network, Florentino Dulalia Jr., Creba national chair, said.

"The Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) also had a program to sell John Hay real estate abroad, but it took us until a few months ago to start it. We targeted P650 million in high-end units but sales have been very slow," said Ernesto Puguon, CJHDevco vice president for marketing.

In a videotaped message that was broadcast to the Creba national convention here on Thursday, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she was "disappointed" by the industry's failure to meet a mass housing target of 100,000 units, which she had pledged during her first State of the Nation Address (Sona) last year.

But Ms Macapagal reminded Creba that the organization supported her at the height of former



ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

President Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial in 1991.

"Now that I am (in power), I ask you again to support me in my (housing agenda)," the President said.

Property trade slump

Even the International Real Estate Federation president noted the slump in the Philippines' property trade, saying it reflected the same crisis affecting Asian markets.

"It would be unrealistic of me not to take into account the rows upon rows of unsold houses in many countries throughout Asia as I speak," said Daniel Teo Tong How, who is based in Singapore.

"The growth of Asian cities has been one of the great socio-economic phenomena of the 20th century. In spite of the current re-

cession, I am sure that when we see the whole scenario in perspective, the growth and development of Asia in the last 50 years or so remains a significant achievement," he said.

"Yet even in the midst of the many 'skeletons in the desert,' there are thriving developments and success stories, a testament to shrewd product differentiation and focused marketing."

Puguon said the real estate industry slump has been plaguing real estate projects since 1996. But he said the slump has not discouraged ambitious projects like the Camp John Hay tourism estate.

Real estate giant Fil Estate dominates a consortium that runs the CJHDevco. It invested in a controversial multimillion-peso log home project that was vilified for its supposed links to former

President Joseph Estrada. CJHDevco is in the midst of marketing a "lease-back" arrangement for its series of hotels that may also find a market abroad.

Creba US network

Dulalia said Creba resorted to an overseas market three years ago, "hoping to draw investments from overseas Filipino workers (OFW)."

Said convention chair Florante Ofrecio: "That is the dream. We need to draw the interest of OFWs, whose lives have been better abroad, to come back and invest in Philippine real estate. We feel they have the money now for Filipino properties."

Dulalia said a Creba US network is building up a market in California where Filipinos rank among the top three Asian groups thriving in that American state.

He said Creba US would soon develop sales networks in Guam and Japan as well as in Europe.

But Ms Macapagal is bullish about jumpstarting the real estate industry back home. She said a review of the industry's crisis last year revealed bureaucratic problems that have been "corrected" by extensive "pencil pushing."

Ms Macapagal acknowledged that banks remain "traditional and conservative" about housing portfolios, due in part to a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) circular that restricts bank guarantees over real estate collateral.

She also said she discovered that the state shelter program's Pag-Ibig Fund had been plowing its capital into institutional investments like treasury bills to increase its revenues, at the expense of housing portfolios.

GMA to Creba: Be my 'bastonero' in building houses

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has called on leaders of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) to be her "bastonero" or to lead in pushing housing development, particularly in the 200 hectares recently certified as available for housing or other urban purposes.

Stressing that housing is No. 1 in her administration's "eight main paths for the next six months to revitalize and invigorate our economy," President Macapagal said, "Now I need your continuing support through your active building of more housing."

Crucial policy responses

In a videotape message to the joint national convention of Creba and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council at the Baguio Country Club in Baguio City last week, President Macapagal reported the government's crucial policy responses to the industry's requirements for "a conducive environment for housing development." The three-day convention with the theme "Alliances and Unity: Key to Economic Recovery" was presided by Creba national president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr. and overall chair Florante S. Ofrecio and overall co-chair HUDCC Undersecretary Armando de Castro.

The President said: "Now that the needed elements to invigorate the housing program are in place, I now call on you to speed up housing development to attain our housing target."

Resolution

Shortly after Ms Macapagal's message, Creba, along with four other industry associations—the Organization of Socialized Housing Developers (OSHD), Builders Alliance Toward Action (Bata) for Shelter Foundation, National Real Estate Association (NREA), and Women in Shelter and Environment (WISE)—presented a formal resolution pledging to deliver some 207,000 socialized and economic housing units to support the housing program in the next few months.

The resolution at the pledging session, initiated by Creba, fully supported by industry sectors, and drafted before the convention opened Friday, was received by Secretary Michael T. Defensor, HUDCC chair, on behalf of the President.

The presentation was made by Creba national president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr., OSHDA president Willy Tan, Bata president Thaddeus Liamzon, WISE vice president Jeanne Menguito, and NREA chair Jose P. Manalad as a highlight of the three-day convention.

Crucial policy responses

Among the crucial policy changes and procedural revisions cited by the President as favoring housing development are:

- Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has increased in loan collateral value for housing accounts to 80-90 per cent of the loan value, with

the possibility of increasing the discount window to P2 million.

- Pag-Ibig Fund's take-out requirement now stands at only 19 from a previous of 40 signatories for the normal or regular loan window, while the take-out with a buy-back guarantee window only takes seven days.

- The government's able handling of the monetary and fiscal policies has resulted in low market interest rates.

- The Government Service Insurance System and Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund) have lowered their interest rates and the Pag-Ibig Fund will increase its housing funds allocation from P15 billion to 70 of its investment portfolio.

- The DAR has recently given its ruling on developers' applications, obviously referring to a forthcoming memorandum of agreement with private sector groups to speed up DAR processing of papers.

Even without her instructions, President Macapagal said GSIS and Pag-Ibig Fund have lowered their interest rates to make amortization payments affordable for homebuyers. GSIS president-general manager Winston E. Garcia and Pag-Ibig Fund president and CEO Romero FS. Quimbo announced their new thrusts during the convention.

Vital role

Sen. Manuel B. Villar Jr. speaking before the convention, underscored that the housing industry rightly deserves the policy reforms being instituted to continue its vital role in the housing program. The restrictive policies and processes imposed during the boom period of housing development several years back are making it more difficult for the industry to survive, Villar said.

There is no basic conflict between agrarian reform and the housing program under the Constitution, Villar stressed. Both serve the needs of the people. He urged industry players to take advantage of the reforms to push the housing program for the people. Villar was former chair of the Senate committee on agriculture.

During the convention's dialogue with Cabinet members, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez vowed to work closely with the private sector to ensure compliance with the President's Executive Order 45 cutting red tape in processing developers' applications for permits to help the industry fast-track housing start and delivery.

Interior Secretary Jose D. Lina Jr. vowed to file administrative and criminal charges before the Ombudsman against local government officials violating deadlines imposed on the completion by local government officials of provincial and municipal comprehensive land use plans and physical framework plans, LGUs

issue development permits to housing developers.

The sanctions against delays in completing these plans and physical framework plans, Lina said, are provided for by the Housing and Urban Development Act and the President's Executive Order 45 as implemented by DILG memorandum circulars.

At present, the President said, banks are very liquid and even medium-size banks have billions in T-bills. "Now," she said, "we will let

you, the private sector, to jumpstart the housing sector by giving banks policy signal incentives to fund developers on their own, then getting bureaucracy out on their way, and out of your way."

So, Ms Macapagal said, "I am able to obtain these crucial policy changes not by traveling around to make speeches, but by sitting down and pushing pencils with policy makers." She had apologized to "Creba fellow workers" for not making it to the Baguio convention.

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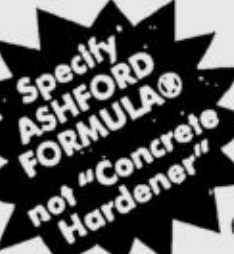


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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES REGIONAL TRIAL COURT NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION BRANCH 17, MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF CORRECTION OF AN
ERRONEOUS ENTRY IN THE MARRIAGE
CONTRACT OF SPOUSES RUBEN
MALABANAN AND EVELYN CUENCA
MALABANAN-DE-PADUA PRIEST OF
SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH,
Petitioners,
-VERSUS-
THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF MANILA
AS FORMAL PARTY RESPONDENT,
Respondent.

SP. PROC. NO. 02-102598

ORDER

To rectify the date in regard to the date of the nuptial betwixt Ruben Malabanan and Evelyn Cuencia Malabanan, from November 23, 1991 to November 20, 1991 as reflected on their "Marriage Contract" (Register No. 1530 (K-61)), the petitioner prays that the Local Civil Registrar of Manila be directed to correct the said marriage contract by changing the date of the nuptial from November 23, 1991 to November 20, 1991. The petitioner prays that the Local Civil Registrar of Manila be directed to correct the said marriage contract by changing the date of the nuptial from November 23, 1991 to November 20, 1991. The petitioner prays that the Local Civil Registrar of Manila be directed to correct the said marriage contract by changing the date of the nuptial from November 23, 1991 to November 20, 1991.

As a consequence of counsel for petitioners' "Ex Parte Motion to Set the Case for Hearing and to Order Publication Thereof" on September 2, 2002, consistent with Section 4, Rule 108 of the Revised Rules of Court, let a copy of this Order be published, at the petitioner's expense, for three (3) consecutive weeks on the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Meanwhile, the hearing relative to the jurisdictional facts of the "Petition" is hereby slated on November 18, 2002, Monday, at 8:30 in the morning.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Manila, September 11, 2002

(Sgd.) EDUARDO B. PERALTA, JR.
Presiding Judge

(PDI—Oct. 8, 15 & 22, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES REGIONAL TRIAL COURT NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION BRANCH 20 CITY OF MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR
CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN ITEM NO. 6
OF THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH
OF CHARITO CORDERO MERCADO
FROM MALE TO FEMALE
LYDIA CORDERO MERCADO
Plaintiff
-VERSUS-
THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR
OF MANILA AND ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS
Respondent

SP. PROC. NO. 02-1041518

ORDER

The verified Petition filed before this Court by Lydia Cordero Mercado, through her counsel, prays that after due notice and hearing, an Order be issued directing the Local Civil Registrar of Manila to correct the birth certificate of CHARITO CORDERO MERCADO, as follows:

4. SEX
From : Male
To : Female

Finding that the aforesaid verified petition to the sufficient in form and substance, the same shall be heard by the Court sitting at Room 528, Manila City Hall, on November 14, 2002 at 9:30 in the morning.

The Local Civil Registrar of Manila or any person having or claiming any interest under the entries sought to be corrected, may within fifteen (15) days from notice of the petition or from the last date of the publication of this Order, file his/her petition for opposition thereto and show cause why the petition should not be granted.

The petitioner is hereby directed to cause the publication of this Order at his/her expense, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks before the scheduled date of hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Manila, to be selected by raffie pursuant to P.D. 1079.

Furnish copies of the petition and this Order to the Office of the Solicitor General and the Office of the Local Civil Registrar of Manila. Likewise, let copies of this Order be furnished petitioner Lydia Cordero Mercado and her counsel, as well as the Office of the Clerk of Court, Region at Trial Court of Manila.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, Philippines, 10 September 2002.

(Sgd.) MARIVIC T. BALIS-UMALI
Presiding Judge

(PDI—October 15, 22 & 29, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines Department of Education Third Elementary Education Project INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: October 10, 2002
Loan No. 4108-PH
IPB No. PISU-CO/200202

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (through the Department of Education (DepEd)) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the financing of Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery of School Furniture to Selected Elementary Schools in the Philippines.

2. The Department of Education (DepEd), Project Implementation Support Unit (PISU) for Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of School Furniture.

Province/Item	Desk	Armchair
Iligao	1,543	3,924
Antique	9,337	6,262
S. Leyte	4,656	8,060
Agusan del Sur	3,261	17,528
Cotabato	5,633	5,249
Zamboanga del Sur	8,682	12,576
Total	33,132	59,597

Project or delivery sites are the District Offices located in 6 provinces under the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP). A bidder may submit a bid for any or all of the items indicated above.

3. For the purpose of this bidding, eligible bidders shall be those who have experience in the supply of selling and distribution and delivery of school furniture to remote areas in a developing country like the Philippines. The Purchaser will grant a margin of preference to goods manufactured in the Philippines.

4. Interested eligible bidders may inspect the bidding documents at or obtain further information from the Office of Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for Foreign Assisted Projects, Ground Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Maralao Avenue, Pasig City, Tel. No. (632) 636-6543 or 632-1361 local 2019, Fax No. (632) 636-6543, <http://www.edca.gov.ph>

5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting October 14, 2002 upon submission of letter of intent to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).

6. Bidding will be conducted through the International competitive bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement Under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.

7. Bids must be delivered to the Bulwagan ng Kanunangan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Maralao Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines, on or before 2:30 p.m. on November 26, 2002 and must be accompanied by a security of not less than two (2) percent of the total bid price.

8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 2:30 p.m. on November 26, 2002 at Bulwagan ng Kanunangan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Maralao Avenue, Pasig City.

9. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on November 12, 2002, 10:00 a.m. at the address indicated in paragraph 8.

(Sgd.) RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary and
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI—Oct. 12, 15 & 19, 2002)



NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION GENCO 6

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID G6-202-012

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-GENCO 6 invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
A1 1 LOT	SPARE PARTS FOR RECTIFIER/CHARGER MITSUBISHI GS TYPE SGF3-160-150A	3MAK-02-0513
A2 2 SETS	DIFFERENTIAL PRESSURE TRANSMITTER AND 2 SETS OF PAPERLESS RECORDER	3MAK-02-0475
B1 1 LOT	BENTLY MACHINERY DIAGNOSTIC ANDRE FOR WINDOWS SYSTEM, MAKE : BENTLY NEVADA	3MAK-02-0497
B2 2 SETS	COMPRESSED AIR SYSTEM	3TIW-02-0095

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following schedule
B1 — October 28, 2002; 10:00 a.m. at SLRO Bidding Room
B2 — October 28, 2002; 11:00 a.m. at SLRO Bidding Room

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Procurement, Traffic and Warehousing Services (PTWS) Section, Administration Division, GENCO 6, San Vicente, Bifan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 starting October 17, 2002. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Bifan, Laguna on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit — One percent (1%), Bank Guarantee — One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond — Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC-Genco 6 reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R.H. HERRERA
Chairman—BAC

(PDI—Oct. 15 & 23, 2002)

A Group of Companies engaged in land development, housing, agri-based industries, public transportation, security services and other corporate activities needs

4 LAWYERS male or female, preferably with at least 2 to 3 years experience; recent successful barristers may also be considered.

4 PARA-LEGAL staff members male or female who have taken the Bar Examinations and preferably with outstanding academic records.

Compensation is along industry practice and may be negotiated on the basis of experience, competence and other qualifications.

E-mail your application to: hrdlegaph@hotmail.com

OR

Send application with resumé to P.O. Box No. 1711, Makati City not later than October 22, 2002.

INVITATION TO BID FOR INJECTABLES

Through a financial grant from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) for the "Implementation of the Family Planning and HIV/AIDS Prevention Measures Programme II" of the Department of Health of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (Financial Cooperation with Philippines), DKT Philippines, Inc. is inviting all interested injectable contraceptive (Medroxyprogesterone acetate) manufacturers to submit their expression of interest to supply injectable contraceptives to DKT Philippines, Inc. for the period 2003 to 2004.

This bid exercise is open only to manufacturers. No agents, trading companies, or other third party groups will be considered. All interested parties may avail of the copy of the bid document at no charge through DKT Philippines, Inc. To receive your copy, please contact the person below on or before close of business on October 31, 2002. The bid documents will be forwarded to you via email, and expressions of interest must include an email address.

DKT Philippines, Inc.
Social Marketing Program
Suite 801, The Linden Suites
37 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City
Philippines

Attention : Mr. Terry L. Scott
Fax : (632) 631 1652
Email : dktd@frenzy.com.ph

The following are the summary details and specifications of the procurement

- Commodity : 800,000 vials of a 3-month progestin-only contraceptive injection in a sterile aqueous suspension form, including a disposable syringe with needle suitable for single dose administration. The needle should be of the smallest suitable gauge for easier administration of the injection. The vial, syringe and needle are packaged in a single box package. Delivery will be spread over a two-year period.
- Composition : One 3ml. vial containing Medroxyprogesterone acetate 150 mg

DKT Philippines, Inc., with the concurrence of KfW, reserves the right to amend, modify, expand, reduce or adjust any portion or provision of the tender prior to the bidding date, as well as reject any or all proposals, to waive deficiencies therein, without assuming any obligation whatsoever as to expenses or losses that interested proponents may incur in the preparation of their bids.

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Nueva Vizcaya Travel & Tours
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Tel. No. (078) 3067172
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Mr. Noli Cabanero
Lot 4 Block 20 Phase II
Corner St. Peter and St. Jude Streets
St. Jude Village, San Fernando, Pangasinan
Tel. No. (0945) 521-0787, e-mail: chrisum@pamp.pwntd.net.ph
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Philippine Daily Inquirer



PEOPLE at WORK Seminar Series

Nov. 11, 2002 (Monday)

Effective Interpersonal Communication

ALAN BARKER, Chairman, Strategic Consulting Services (Worldwide)
A successful manager is an effective communicator. But how does one communicate effectively with others? What are the components of this critical competency? What standards are applied to determine whether one person is a superior or average communicator? The answers will be revealed in this session.

Nov. 12, 2002 (Tuesday)

Coaching and Counseling Skills (Workplace Setting)

JOSEFINA O. SANTAMARIA, President, Career Systems, Inc.
Coaching and counseling skills enhance emotional intelligence, a key factor in career success. This presentation will cover the following: difference between coaching and counseling, when and when not to use them, steps in conducting coaching and counseling and expected outcomes.

Nov. 13, 2002 (Wednesday)

Strategic Thinking Tools for Managers (Overview)

TITA DATU PUANGCO, President, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc.
Managers need to think of how to align their function with the other areas in the organization. They have to appreciate not just the micro view but also the macro perspective considering the impact on the enterprise of the external environment and stakeholders. The talk will provide an overview of the latest thinking in strategy management and implementation. It will enhance their need to pay attention to the bottomline results of today but also how to

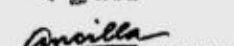
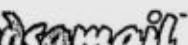
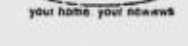
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TIME: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
VENUE: Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Ave. cor. H. V. de la Costa St., Makati City, Metro Manila.

SUBSIDIZED REGISTRATION FEES: P250 (balcony), P300 (orchestra) and P350 (patron); Advance payment discount of 5% for paid registrations before Oct. 18; Limited discounted balcony tickets for teachers, gov't employees (25%) & students (50%)

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OBITUARIES

EMMELINE CAPERIÑA QUINIO

*Peacefully joined her Creator on 14 October 2002
(16 March 1944 – 14 October 2002)*

Her loving mother Eva; brothers and sisters Renato and Enya, Raul and Evelyn, Lilibeth and Bela Bobis, Annette and Martyn Price, Joji, and Marissa and Bobby Mendoza; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request for prayers.

Her body is at Our Lord's Chapel, Sitio Alto (Quirino Compound), 404 Guevara Avenue, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Funeral Mass at the Chapel will be celebrated on Thursday, 17 October 2002 at 7:00 a.m. Cremation shall follow at the Manila Memorial Crematorium, Sucat, Parañaque. Her ashes will thereafter be taken to the Immaculate Conception Basilica, Batangas City.

Interment at the Batangas City Cemetery will follow after the 3:00 p.m. Mass on Friday, 18 October 2002.

SEVERINO C. DOMINGUEZ, SR.

devoted husband, loving father
and faithful servant of God
joined his Creator on October 8, 2002
at the age of 77

His bereaved wife Corazon and children Bobby and Beng, Vi and Rose, Tina and Nelson, Annie and Boy, Rey and Rosa, Raffy and Joji, Ruben and Mary Anne, Ricky and Maripi, grandchildren, nephew, nieces and other relatives request friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul

His remains will be flown in from Los Angeles, California on Wednesday, October 16, 2002 and will lie in state at the **Funeraria Samson** at 145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite

Interment will be on Saturday, October 19, 2002 at **Imus Municipal Cemetery** after the 1:00 p.m. mass and blessing at the **Imus Cathedral**

FRANCISCO S. MORALES, SR.

*Died on October 14, 2002
at the age of 76.*

His loving wife LEONOR; children ELEANOR, FLORIDA, RALLEN, JR., APOL, ROWENA and DELON; sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and other relatives mourn his passing and wish him eternal rest.

His body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Park Viewing Chapel #2, Tañong, Marikina City.

Cremation and interment will be on Thursday, 17th of October after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

"And... I will dwell in the House
of the Lord... Forever."
Psalm 23

TISHA

INFINITELY LOVED AND REMEMBERED
(14 August 1957 – 15 October 1994)

HOLY MASSES FOR TISHA WILL BE OFFERED TODAY,
OCTOBER 15, 2002, AT THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES:

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH CHURCH	5:00 A.M.
Pasig City	
SACRED HEART PARISH CHURCH	5:15 A.M.
Kamuning, Q.C.	
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH CHURCH	5:30 A.M.
Lantana St., Q.C.	
ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT OF PERPETUAL ADORATION	6:00 A.M.
M. Hemady cor. 11th St., New Manila, Q.C.	
ST. JUDE SHRINE	6:30 A.M.
JP Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila	
NAT'L SHRINE OF ST. MICHAEL & THE ARCHANGELS	7:00 A.M.
Solano St., San Miguel, Manila	
STO. NIÑO PARISH CHURCH	7:00 A.M.
Tondo, Manila	
SANTISSIMO ROSARIO PARISH CHURCH	7:30 A.M.
UST, España, Manila	
THE MEDICAL CITY HOSPITAL CHAPEL	12:00 NN
Mandaluyong City	
ST. MARTIN DE PORRES CHAPEL	12:00 NN
P. Galvan — L. Guinto, Malate, Manila	
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH CHURCH	6:00 P.M.
Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila	
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL SHRINE	6:00 P.M.
New Manila, Q.C.	
SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH	6:00 P.M.
Plaza Del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila	
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE	6:15 P.M.
Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	

Rosario Pastrana Vega

of Kalibo, Aklan

*Peacefully joined her Creator on October 12, 2002
at the age of 93.*

Her loving CHILDREN Dea and Romy Doromal, May and Manny Soliven, Tess and Franz Berner, Rose and Arthur Quimpo, Boy and Jackie Vega; GRANDCHILDREN Ray and Didit, Rosemarie, Cecile and Steve, Dan and Maridee, Dennis, Chito and Ria, Marivi and John, Nolet and Tosh, Michelle and Jon, Tracy and Sasa, Carina and Nimrod, Mark and Happy, Vanessa, Miguel, Paola, Luis and GREAT GRANDCHILDREN request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the family residence at Pastrana St., Kalibo, Aklan.

Funeral Mass will be held at 8:00 AM on Saturday, October 19, 2002 at the St. Jude Parish Church after which the body will be flown to Manila for cremation.

Belen Padilla Abesamis

*Died in the grace of our Lord
on October 13, 2002 (Sun.)
at the age of 82.*

Her loving sister Pising Abesamis Malonzo and brother Egle Padilla Abesamis together with her sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in the Abesamis Residence in Penaranda, Nueva Ecija. Interment will take place on Wednesday, October 16, 2002 at 8:00 in the morning.

"From
darkness
let the
light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

JOSE LOPEZ ARANETA

*Passed away on Thursday, October 10, 2002
at the age of 72 in Forth Worth, Texas, U.S.A.*

Joe was preceded in death by his parents Jose and Mercedes Araneta and his sons Ricky and Pepe.

He leaves behind his bereaved wife Teresita Montilla; children Merch, Maki and Steve Valda, Connie, Cora, Bettina, Baba and Manolet Escudero; sisters Nenuca and Ditas; brothers Greg and Eddie; grandchildren Marcus, Michael, Zach, Aaron, Daniel and Isabela.

Memorial Services:

USA – October 14, 2002 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Burleson, Texas. Burial to follow at Laurel Land Cemetery, Forth Worth, Texas.

Manila – October 19, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. at Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

EMMELINE CAPERIÑA QUINIO

(16 March 1944 – 14 October 2002)

Beloved friend of Sonia M. Cabato, RSCJ; Lila Quirino and Brige Aldeguez returned to the Father on 14 October 2002.

Together with all her other friends, we request your prayers.

Her body is at Our Lord's Chapel, Sitio Alto (Quirino Compound), 404 Guevara Avenue, San Juan, Metro Manila. Funeral Mass at the Chapel will be celebrated on Thursday, 17 October 2002 at 7:00 a.m.

Cremation shall follow at the Manila Memorial Crematorium, Sucat, Parañaque. Her ashes will thereafter be taken to the Immaculate Conception Basilica at Batangas City.

Interment at the Batangas City Cemetery will follow after the 3:00 p.m. Mass on Friday, 18 October 2002.

NARCISO E. MANGULABNAN, JR. "JUN"

*Died peacefully on October 13, 2002
at the age of 61.*

His loving brothers Nicasio (†), Carlos (†), Remy; sisters Terry, Baby, Carol, Cory and immediate families request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Pinaglabanan Church, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 16, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina at 1:00 p.m.

ISABELO P. SALAZAR

Bacnotan, La Union

July 8, 1935 – October 12, 2002

His wife Consuelo; children and grandchildren; Marian & Mars – Kat-Kat & Andee, Albert & Cecile – Jude and Noli & Vicky – Iki Boy & Glenrich; sister Paz; niece Memang & Jerry – Jasmin & Christian; dear relatives & friends request the readers to join them in their prayers.

His remains lie in state at the Immaculate Heart Chapel of the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Dao St., Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday,
October 17, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park,
Parañaque City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

DR. BIENVENIDO B. MANUEL, Ph.D.

His beloved wife Patria (†);

Children: Dr. Edgardo and Beng Fores
Col. Generoso F. (†) and Minerva Tanseco

Grandchildren: Dr. Leo and Dr. Cherrie (Gomez) Fores
Dr. Miguel and Dr. Luci (Castro) Fores
Chartra Paz Fores

Great Grandchild: Sabine

In-laws and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Broadway, New Manila. Masses will be celebrated every 8:00 p.m. on October 13, 14 & 15, 2002.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 16, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Mount Carmel Shrine.

Novena Masses and prayers will continue from October 17 to 20, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati. Ninth day Novena Mass on Monday, October 21, 2002 will be at 7:00 p.m. at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park. Dinner follows at the Parish Center.

In Loving Memory
First Death Anniversary

Aguedo Castillo Tabernilla

of Tayabas, Quezon
(Feb. 5, 1922 - Oct. 15, 2001)

Holy Mass for the eternal peace and happiness will be offered today October 15, 2002, 6:00 AM at St. Archangel Basilica Tayabas, Quezon.

His beloved wife SINFOROSA DATOR-TABERNILLA; children DENNIS, PHILIP, DORISIE, TOBBY and CYNTHIA, grandchildren and in-laws request all his loved ones, relatives and friends to join us in prayers for him.

BUSINESS

Thrift banks' bad loans down in July

Congress tells DTI to defer ban on junks

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CONGRESS has ordered the Department of Trade and Industry to defer its decision on a petition by the Philippine Steelmakers Association to ban scrap metal exports.

The House committee on trade and industry, which has been investigating the proposed scrap metal ban since August, ordered trade officials to await the results of a study on the matter before coming out with a policy decision.

Congress decided to step into the controversy to determine how an export ban would affect the operations

of steel makers and metal casters, as well as scrap metal and junkyard dealers and whether such a prohibition was needed.

Steel makers and metal casters are seeking an export ban because foreign buyers are offering higher prices than domestic players, leading to a dearth of scrap metal in the country.

They have drafted a memorandum of agreement that will coerce scrap metal dealers to sell their goods to domestic players first at a fixed price of P3.80 to P4.80 a kilogram for the next five years before selling their excess holdings abroad.

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S more than 100 thrift banks had slightly lesser bad loans in July, as their total loan portfolios grew while their soured credits contracted.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas placed the thrift bank industry's non-performing loans ratio at 13.22 percent in July, down from 13.41 percent in June.

Non-performing loans are those that are in default or close to being in default. Many loans become non-performing after being in default for three months, but this can depend on the contract terms.

July's figure showed that out of P100 lent out by a thrift bank, P13.22 became soured accounts.

The central bank placed the total amount of bad loans among

thrift banks at P20.21 billion in July from P20.31 billion in June.

Thrift banks extended some P152.86 billion worth of loans in July from P151.51 billion in June.

However, the central bank noted that compared with the previous year, the non-performing loans ratio of thrift banks as of July was higher at 13.22 percent from 11.96 percent the previous year.

Taking interbank loans out of the thrift sector's total loan portfolios, the ratio stood at a much higher 14.20 percent in July from 14.16 percent in June.

The coverage ratio of thrift banks as of July improved to 48.22 percent from 46.49 percent following a 3.21-percent increase in their loan loss reserves along with the drop in their non-performing loan ratios.

Subsidize petrochem operations, gov't urged

INSTEAD of raising duties on resins, the government should subsidize the operations of petrochemical companies that would have to temporarily shut down until a naphtha cracker is in operation, according to producers of finished goods.

Businessman Raul Concepcion, convenor of the Alliance of Concerned Downstream Industries and End Product Manufacturers, said the government

could opt to recover the subsidy as part of the cost of putting up the naphtha cracker by raising duties that would be approved by producers and users this year.

"Since the government appears as the only one bent on putting up a naphtha cracker here, it should shoulder all the interest expenses of losing petrochemical firms to spare consumers and plastic users from increasing tariffs," Concepcion said.

Duties on resins, the basic input for plastic products, are set to fall from 15 to 5 percent next year for the Asean Common Effective Preferential Tariff rate and in 2004 for the Most Favored Nation tariff for non-Asean products.

The Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines has asked the government to maintain CEPT rates at 15 percent and jack up MFN rates to 30

percent for up to 10 years to give local resin makers more time to prepare for competition and encourage the establishment of a naphtha cracker which would pave the way for the integration of the industry.

Concepcion has opposed the tariff hike, saying it will undermine the viability of manufacturers of plastic goods and downstream industries that use plastic products. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Landbank net income rose 11% in first half

LAND Bank of the Philippines said yesterday its net income in the first half of the year grew 11 percent to P833 million from P751 million a year earlier.

In a news statement, Landbank president Margarito Teves said the improved first-half results reflected the structural initiatives being implemented by the country's fifth-largest bank.

Teves disclosed that Landbank released some P6.4 billion worth of loans to farmers and cooperatives in the first six months of the year, up 9 percent from P5.8 billion during the same period last year.

The loans were channeled to 1,011 cooperatives and 377 countryside financial institutions, he said.

The loans benefited around 215,000 farmers and fisherfolks, he added.

Teves explained that the bank's total expenses shrunk 11 percent to P8.3 billion.

Interest expenses on deposits contracted 19 percent to P2.2 billion, as domestic interest rates declined during the first six months, he said.

Teves stressed that interest expenses went down despite a 9-percent growth in total deposits to P173 billion.

Provisions for loan losses fell to P1.6 billion from P2.5 billion year-on-year.

Teves said Landbank's gross revenue contracted by 14 percent to P8.8 billion during the first half due to a 26-percent decline in income from loans.

Earnings from investments also slid to P3.6 billion.

As of the first half, total resources reached P239 billion, up 11 percent from P216 billion in June 2001. *Clarissa S. Batino*

SEC issues warning against investment firm

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is warning the public against placing money with a company called MTST/MTST Holdings.

In a statement, the SEC said MTST was not licensed to engage in the business of soliciting investments from the public.

MTST was not even registered as a corporation or a partnership, the SEC said.

"In order to avoid a possible repeat of the difficulties experienced by investors in the ICS Export, Exsior and Glasgow cases, the public is advised to take whatever legal actions necessary to protect their investments," the SEC warned.

The commission said the Department of National Defense

had also been advised on the matter since operations of MTST/MTST Holdings were located within Villamor Air base.

The warning was issued in response to numerous inquiries made regarding the company.

The SEC is cracking the whip on pseudo-investment firms that typically offer high interest rates to lure investors to place their money with them.

It earlier issued a cease-and-desist order against Glasgow and investigated ICS and Exsior for sale of unregistered securities without a license.

These groups have victimized investors who include many from the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces.

The SEC has been advising the public to be more circumspect in deciding where to invest.

Berkley Plans sees 15% increase in collections

BERKLEY International Plans said yesterday its first-year collections should grow by 15 percent by year's end.

New business sales are recovering from the negative publicity that Berkley attracted last year, company chair Felipe Diego said.

The company reeled from the negative publicity it got because of its supposedly hard-sell marketing strategy.

Diego said Berkley had been doing well this year despite recent reports of problems in the pre-need industry because of its good financial rating.

It has also helped that the company has the backing of a strong mother company in the United States, he added.

Diego announced that Berkley, which uses Family First

to market its products, would open two to three more branches in Metro Manila and possibly one in Cebu.

The company is currently the country's No. 3 education pre-need firm in terms of new businesses.

Late last year, Philippine Rating Services Corp., an affiliate of Standard & Poor's, gave Berkley International a "PRS A+" corporate credit rating.

The rating means that the company has an above average capacity to meet its financial commitments relative to that of other Philippine companies.

However, it is more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than higher-rated corporates."

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LIFESTYLE

Fitness

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

All about cellulite

LECTURES held at the annual Idea World Fitness Convention are usually about "serious" health and fitness topics, like "Exercise Science Research Review" or "Foods and Nutrients for a Healthy Heart." So I was surprised to see "Cellulite Secrets: All You Want to Know about Cellulite" being offered at this year's convention last June. It was presented by no less than Dr. Len Kravitz, a well-known and highly respected exercise research scientist.

I was not surprised to find the lecture room overflowing with female fitness professionals because, just like me, they were there for mostly personal reasons. It was so full that many participants had to sit on the floor along the aisles. What was surprising was that there were a good number of men in the audience. No, they weren't there because they wanted to find out how to get rid of their cellulite (men, the lucky stiffs, don't usually have cellulite), but because they wanted to know how to help their female clients.

Cellulite might be more of an aesthetic issue than a health issue (no one ever died of cellulite), but Kravitz said he decided to look more closely into the matter because he realized that cellulite is a serious self-esteem problem for many women. Holistic health encompasses more than just the physical aspect, but should also include mental and emotional health. And if cellulite can hurt a woman psychologically, then it is not a frivolous superficial "beauty" issue.

Kravitz and his assistant researcher, Sarah Waff, investigated hundreds of research studies on cellulite. He said it was a difficult topic to research because many of the studies were flawed and not well-designed, and therefore

WELL AND GOOD



Tina Juan

could not be seriously considered as scientific breakthroughs. So, he warned us that there would be no silver bullets that day, although he did promise to deliver the best of what science currently knows about cellulite.

Through that lecture, I gained a deeper understanding about what cellulite is, what treatments are worth the time, effort and expense, what is the right kind of exercise to help reduce the appearance of cellulite, and what prevention guidelines we should follow. I trust the findings of Kravitz because, aside from being a solid research scientist, he has no hidden agenda and he does not work for any anti-cellulite treatment company.

All races through all ages

There were women of all races represented in the audience and no wonder, because cellulite is prevalent in all ethnic groups. It might be more common among women of Caucasian and Mediterranean descent, but Asians and

ALLU p.C2

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- EXERCISE OF THE WEEK -

Bridge with alternating knee lifts

STRENGTHENS the buttocks and hamstrings as well as the abdominal muscles (as core muscle stabilizers).

Equipment:
Exercise mat

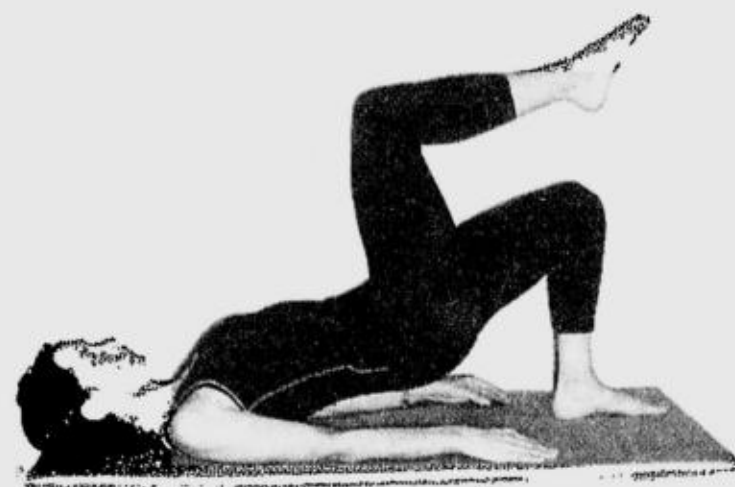
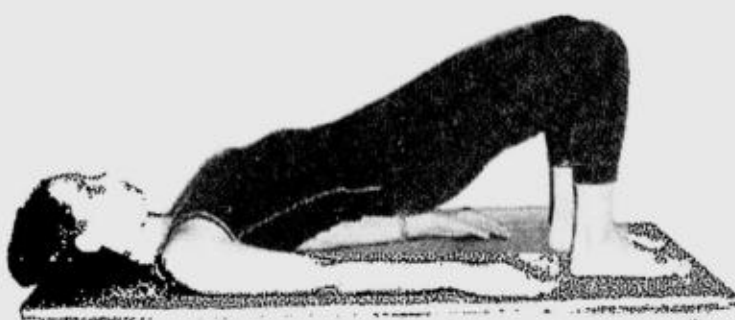
Exercise technique:

Lie down with feet about hip-width apart and heels about 6 inches away from buttocks. Press down on heels, contract the buttocks and hamstrings, and lift hips off the mat. Lift the right bent leg, hold for a second or two, then lower it down without lowering your hips. Do the same on the left leg. This equals one repetition.

Continue to alternately lift the legs until you have done the desired number of repetitions. Lower the pelvis to the mat.

Performance tips:

Challenge your core abdominal muscles by keeping the hips as level as possible when shifting from one knee lift to another. Maintain a straight line from your shoulders, buttocks and knees. If it hurts your knees, your feet may be too close to your buttocks, or too far. The knees should be over the ankles, not in front or behind them.



For beginners, do one repetition (right and left knee lift) then lower hips to the floor. Repeat for the desired number of reps.

Repetitions:

One repetition equals a right and a left knee lift. Do 10 repetitions.

GYM OUTLET MARKS 9TH ANNIVERSARY

Slimmers World Legaspi branch recently celebrated its ninth year with the theme "Intensity Nine @ 9." The day-long festivities commenced with a Mass, followed by a motorcade around the Makati business district. An indoor triathlon tested the strength and stamina of participating clients while the less competitive settled for special combat martial arts/mat Pilates and dance aero classes. Special prizes were also given to raffle winners. Capping the celebration was a showcase of toned bodes as select clients strutted their stuff on the catwalk in a fashion show sponsored by Maldita. For special promos on lifetime/annual membership and treatments, call 893-8934/35 or visit Slimmers World-Legaspi on the G/F Zeta II Building, Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.



All about cellulite

From page C1

blacks are not spared either.

Cellulite has been around for a long time, as evidenced by the dimpled thighs seen in paintings of nude women from the era when big hips and thighs were considered beautiful.

The term "cellulite" came from France. It was identified as a disease in 1816 by William Balfour. Today, of course, the medical community recognizes that it is a natural condition that occurs primarily in females. There are many scientific names given to cellulite in the medical literature but in 1978, they settled on the long name *dermopanniculosis deformans*.

Basic information about cellulite

Cellulite is basically dimpled skin that is usually found in the buttocks and thighs of 85 percent of post-adolescent women (some studies say a little higher). It is rare in pre-adolescent girls. It is not usually found in males. The "waviness" that is characteristic of cellulite is not consistent. There are affected and non-affected areas on the same thigh. So, some parts of the thigh are smooth, while others are dimpled.

Skin Anatomy 101

A simple explanation of the skin's micro-anatomy is in order so we can better understand how cellulite is formed. The skin has two layers. The topmost layer is called the epidermis, and the second layer is called the dermis. Underneath the skin, there are two layers of subcutaneous fat (translation: fat under the skin). Underneath the fat are the muscles.

The second layer of skin, the dermis, is composed of connective tissue called collagen, a natural protein that provides structural support, texture, resiliency and shape. Collagen can also be found in other parts of the body like the muscles, tendons and bones. Think of collagen like the thread in a fabric that is woven together to form a framework into which new cells can grow.

The connective tissue in the dermis runs through the subcutaneous fat to anchor the skin to the muscles. The first layer of fat is where cellulite resides. In the majority of women, the connective tissue is arranged in vertical bands that form cylindrical-shaped chambers with fat cells clumped together inside. In other words, a "fat chamber." When the skin is pinched, the fat cells are forced upward into the dermis and the dimpled look of cellulite appears. In severe cases, the fat cells protrude upward without any pinching required because they have grown large with fat deposits, or the connective tissue in the dermis is weakened from age. The fat chambers are formed in a discontinuous and irregular pattern. This may explain why there are affected and non-affected areas on the same leg.

In men, the collagen bands are arranged in a cross-hatched or diagonal manner, in a smooth and continuous pattern. So when you pinch the skin, the fat cells move downward instead of upward. A woman also tends to have thinner skin so in much the same manner that silk pants will show the outline of the panty underneath, denim pants (thicker male skin) will hide it. Besides, women store more fat in their lower body than men do.

The fat cells in the second layer of fat are arranged more loosely. This is the layer that liposuction is done on. That's why liposuction does not improve the appearance of cellulite. It does not remove the fat in the first layer and it does not correct the way the connective tissue is arranged.

What causes cellulite

In spite of the discovery that there is a difference in male-female connective tissue, Kravitz says it is still unclear as to what actually causes cellulite. There are three main theories. It could be caused by "adipocyte hypertrophy," or the enlargement (hypertrophy) of fat cells (an adipocyte is a fat cell). It could be caused by "adiposis," or a clumping together of fat cells. And, lastly, it could be a connective tissue problem. Not just the irregular cylinder-shaped fat chambers but also a weakening or breakdown of the connective tissue.

Kravitz says cellulite could be a combination of all three theories, or one of the three. He believes that the strongest theory has to do with the weakening of the connective tissue. One of the reasons it could weaken or develop an irregular pattern is that subcutaneous fat secretes enzymes to create "tunnels" through the dermis to provide a pathway for substances from the immune system to reach the epidermis, or topmost layer of the skin, to heal inflammations or infections. These enzymes could, over time, cause a breakdown in the connective tissue.

What cellulite is not caused by

Several studies that have included live subjects (men and women, affected and unaffected individuals) and cadavers, using such methods as biopsies of skin and fat have determined that cellulite is not caused by damaged blood vessels, decreased blood circulation, a weakening of capillaries or an enlarged lymphatic condition.

Researchers could find no difference between the blood flow to affected and non-affected areas. They could find no difference in fat cells in affected and non-affected individuals and within affected and non-affected areas on the same individual.

What they did find was a difference in con-



nective tissue arrangement between males and females.

Types of cellulite

If your cellulite only appears when you pinch your skin or when there is pressure, like when you sit down, then you have "pinch or compression cellulite." It is also called "normal cellulite." In a study of 1,000 women, all of them had cellulite when the skin was pinched or compressed.

You have "full-blown cellulite" if it is obvious without pinching or compressing the skin.

Factors that make cellulite look worse

Cellulite will be more obvious if there is an increase in the size of the fat cells (you gain weight and most of that weight is stored in cellulite prone areas like the thighs and buttocks) because they will protrude even more from the top of the fat chambers into the skin. The weaker and more irregular your connective tissue is, the more dimpled the skin will look. Lastly, flabby muscles will make cellulite look worse because they contribute to uneven skin contours. Cellulite is just as common in slim flabby women as it is in fat flabby women. It is less obvious in slim muscled women.

Why is it more prevalent in the thighs and buttocks?

Aside from the connective tissue factor, women have more stored fat in the thighs and buttocks. Nature has designed it this way because these are the emergency fat storage sites for a woman. Thus, the fat cells in that area have more fat storing enzymes.

Why is cellulite more visible as one ages?

The dermis reaches maximum thickness at 30 years of age. Then it gets thinner and looser. Unfortunately, fat cells tend to simultaneously increase in size as many women age because of lack of exercise. Even if they don't gain weight, many women notice cellulite appearing as they get older. A fitness colleague, who has been slim all her life and was a champion tennis player with nicely muscled legs, told me that she never had cellulite until she hit 40. Just last week, another fit and trim lady approaching 40 said that all of a sudden cellulite has started to appear at the back of her legs. The culprit is most likely connective tissue that is getting weaker.

Why does cellulite affect some women more than others?

The answer is in the genes. There are genetic differences in thickness of the dermis, connective tissue arrangement (unaffected women could have connective tissue bands that are arranged more diagonally like a man), subcutaneous fat and muscle tone.

Why do women who lose a lot of weight still have cellulite?

The most likely answer is, because the connective tissue has not changed. There is less fat to protrude so the cellulite is not as pronounced, but since the connective tissue is still irregularly shaped and the anchoring bands are still vertical, the cellulite is still there.

Next week: A close look at cellulite treatments

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold its 8th National Fitness Convention on Nov. 23 and 24 at the Edsa Shangri-La. Three international presenters will present workshops on group exercise, personal training and fitness management. Topics will include yoga, stability ball, how to develop a marketing plan, Pilates, squat exercise analysis. Call Ivy Abuel at 850-7647 or text (0917) 518-1202.

For past articles and exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com. For questions, e-mail fitness@atiglobal.net.

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FAQs (frequently asked questions)

What is Cost Plus and how is it different from your HMO program?

The Cost Plus program also goes by the names Third Party Administration (TPA) and Fund Management Program. It is a program designed for corporate and large group accounts and offers the same quality healthcare services from MEDICard's accredited network of hospitals and doctors. Instead however, of fixed membership fees, the Cost Plus program has a pre-determined REVOLVING FUND raised by the insured and a network access fee. This fund is exclusively used to pay for services of accredited hospitals and doctors with a corresponding service fee, and is replenished upon reaching a pre-determined level.

Meet your MEDICard Team



Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Ronnie S. Filart is MEDICard's accredited specialist based in World Citi Medical Center (formerly QCMC). Dr. Filart, who has been in the practice of his specialization for over eight years now, is a Medicine graduate of UERM-MMC. He later chose to specialize in Orthopedic Surgery, finishing his residency training at the Philippine Orthopedic Center. Dr. Filart is a member of the Philippine Medical Association, the Philippine Orthopedic Association and the Philippine College of Surgeons. He is married to Dr. Magdalena Filart, a Dermatologist and has three children. His free time is spent in his hobby breeding African Lovebirds and in socio-civic projects, particularly in medical missions sponsored by the Couples for Christ. You may visit Dr. Filart for your consultation needs at his clinic, Room 219 from Mondays to Saturdays, 2 to 4 in the afternoon.

Contract Signing



CEBU PACIFIC AIR signed recently its renewal corporate healthcare program with MEDICard. Signing the agreement at the Cebu Pacific Air Office were the airline's Andy Cristel Maningo (HR Director) & MEDICard's President, Dr. Nicanor Montoya. Witnessing the signing were (seated L-R) Cristine Trinidad (Cebu Pacific VP-Inflight Services) & Rosemarie Alipio (MEDICard Claims & Reimb. Sr. Mgr.). Also present were (standing L-R) Monica Villasehor (MEDICard Acct. Excc.), Lulu Dadin (MEDICard Corp. Acct. Mgr.), Rose Santos (Cebu Pacific Dir. for AQSS), Beth Alayon (Cebu Pacific Benefits Supervisor), Claudia Soriano (Cebu Pacific Personnel & Admin. Mgr.), Glenford Mirasol (MEDICard RMD Sr. Mgr.) & Voltaire Victoria (MEDICard Mktg. & Sales Mgr.). Cebu Pacific has been MEDICard's valued client since 1997.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availability of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

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Meditations on life

From page C4

professor, he always handles media group tours and often attends retreats and meditation classes in monasteries in Bangkok.

The techniques of *samatha* (calmness, concentration) are many, some older than Buddhism, others developed after the time of Buddha. The most commonly practiced in Thailand is mindfulness with breathing, which was advocated by Buddhadasa Bhikkhu, founder of Suan Mokkh Forest Monastery in Surat Thani.

Mantra meditation, in which you repeat a few words over and over, is also widely practiced. The words may vary but the purpose of chanting is to get the mind focused.

Another type of meditation, contemplation, involves focusing on an object, idea, or image to gain greater insight into it. In creative visualization, the meditator forms a mental picture that conveys relaxation, such as waves breaking gently on the sand.

Mindfulness is the key to *vipassana* or active meditation. It sounds like an oxymoron, but that's exactly what you're doing when you rake a garden or stroll peacefully through the woods. The key is to move slowly, mindfully, remaining attentive to your motions. Walking, sitting and lying are but a few of *vipassana* techniques.

Like everything, it takes time to learn to meditate effectively; few people achieve deep relaxation immediately. Virtually anyone can meditate and focus; awareness and relaxation

improve with practice.

Way to happiness

Despite the physical benefits of meditation, its deeper purpose is to achieve greater awareness and expand the mind's capabilities. According to Piyasak, meditation "provides a direct access route into the unconscious, without using artificial means." Because the unconscious stores everything we've ever experienced, "a greater level of information is available to us and this allows us to make better choices in the conscious state."

"Meditation is not a goal in itself," he explains. Rather, meditation's purpose "is to bring about the transformation of our perception of ourselves and our world—from that of skepticism and doubt to acceptance and kindness. It's not about getting somewhere else, but about allowing yourself to be where you already are."

Piyasak believes psychotherapy can help you get in touch with inner conflicts, but can't alleviate the pain. Meditation offers a path to healing by helping you understand the difference between an event and your reaction to it. "Meditation can make you happy," he says.

The Philippine media educational tour to Thailand was sponsored by Thai Airways and Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT). Call TAT Philippines at 911-1660; 437-5837; and (0-917) 529-2480.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Communication problems tackled in parenting convention

IF men are indeed from Mars and women from Venus, then teenagers are in all probability from Pluto. Oftentimes, the cause of dissension between parents and children is miscommunication, if not, the absence of it.

Even if we have, as grown-ups, come from the very awkward yet arrogant phase of transition to adulthood ourselves, we somehow lose the hang of it, and end up not understanding what goes on in our teenage kids' minds and hearts.

Communication problems are just a few of the kinks parents have to work out in a relationship with kids to achieve a harmonious and loving family life. The topmost challenges and solutions to equip parents will be explored in the first Philippine Parenting Convention, to be held at the NBC Tent on Oct. 26-29. The convention will begin with an exhibition featuring the latest in gadgets, programs, tools and solutions needed as aids in effectively raising kids in today's setting. The next two days will be composed of a series of simultaneous workshops conducted by experts in various areas of parenting.

For maximum learning and impact, PLDT, Goldilocks, Volvo, IBC 13, GMA 7, INQ7, Destiny Cable, Joey Radio Station, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, The Philippine Star, Family Reader Magazine, Johnson & Johnson, Alaska, WG&A, Tide and Downy, Biogesic, Mom's Team, Manila Genesis Management & Entertainment, Trumpets, Playshop, Museo Pambata, MTV, Happy Savers Club, Neslac, Jade Blend, Fibisco, have teamed up with event organizer, Business Works Inc., to provide multimedia technological experience for both actual and "virtual" participants.

The good thing about it is there are solutions that can help the entire family bridge the generation gap, and be more effective as parents. Loosen up, open your ears, widen your consciousness, and pretty soon, you'll understand what makes anything "cool" or otherwise these days. The convention is open to parents and those interested in all areas of effective parenting. Call 434-0139 and 433-0397 or visit philippineparenting.com.

How to solve teeth discoloration

A GOOD dentist will tell you that there are three kinds of tooth discoloration: age-related, intrinsic and extrinsic. The one you have the most control over is extrinsic discoloration. Acidic substances found in wine, coffee, cola drinks and other food can play havoc on the surface of the enamel and the underlying dentin. Discoloration occurs when the enamel becomes less transparent. If you're a smoker, not only will your habit discolor your teeth, it will also be a big factor in gum disease.

"Smoking is a major risk factor for developing periodontal (gum) disease. In fact, when you look at the scientific literature on gum disease, smoking supersedes any other risk factor that has been identified to date," says Dr. Jonathan Korostoff, an assistant professor in the department of periodontics of the University of

Pennsylvania's School of Dental Medicine.

Kicking the habit and cutting down on food and drinks that are known for staining teeth are steps in the right direction. But if you need to quickly remove decades of discoloration, dental laser whitening is the best way to do it.

That dental procedure is only available at the Perfect Smile Dental Laser Whitening Salon in Makati. Of all the whitening methods available, like gel packs and bleaching agents, laser whitening is by far the fastest. The total time in the salon, from orientation to actual treatment, is about two hours. Nothing beats the precision and power of the red laser in the hands of the trained specialist.

Perfect Smile Laser Dental Whitening Salon is located in Glorietta 2, Level 3 of Ayala Center, Makati. Call 892-9398/9941 or visit www.oneperfectsmile.com.

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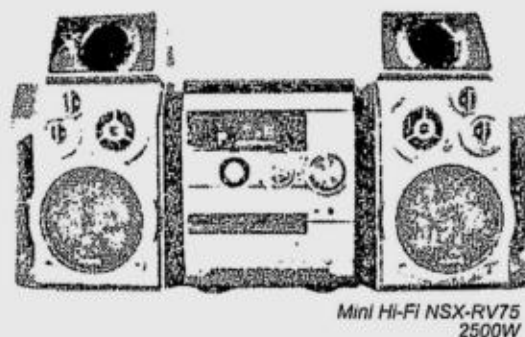
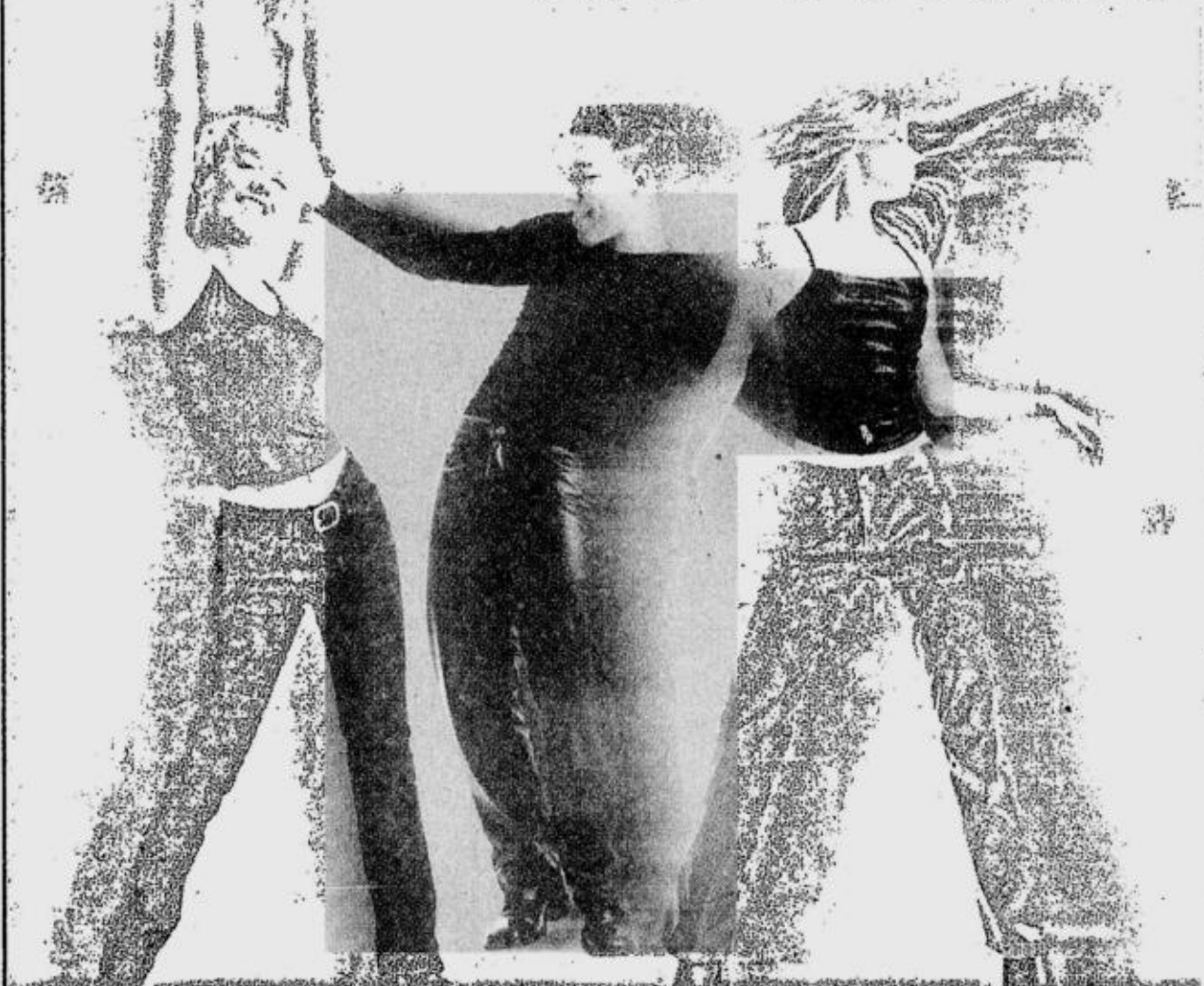


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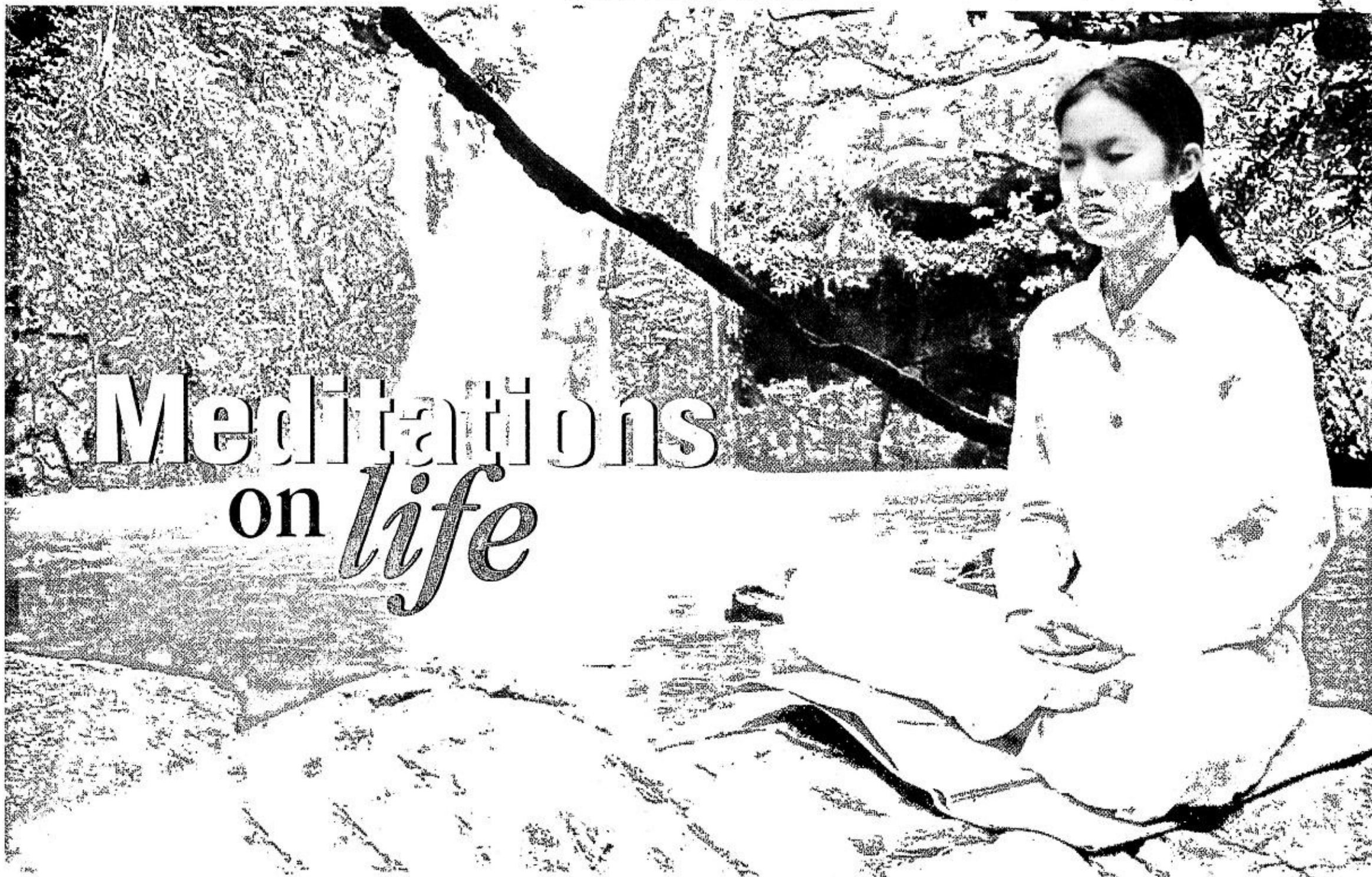


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By Rowena C. Burgos

FOR many people, the word meditation conjures up images of Buddhist monks sitting cross-legged, intoning "om." However, meditation, in one form or another, has been a part of every major religion throughout the world. In the past few decades, conventional Western medicine, professional sports, correctional facilities and the business world, have

also discovered the benefits of meditation.

The American Heart Association (AHA) reports that daily meditation can reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke. Health insurance statistics show that people who meditate regularly are less prone to illness—those who meditate reduced the chance of being hospitalized for coronary disease by 87 percent, and the chance of getting cancer by 55 percent.

It's all in your mind

While you are meditating, you stop think-

ing about work, relationships, finances and daily chores, and become fully present in "the moment." Mental chatter ceases temporarily, and you experience a profound state of relaxation in both mind and body.

The changes experienced aren't just subjective; they can be measured physically. According to the AHA, brainwave frequencies shift from the usual 13 to 30 cycles per second to 8 to 13 cps; heart rate and respiration slow down, and the brain also steps up production of endorphins, the proteins that enhance positive feelings.

Types of meditation

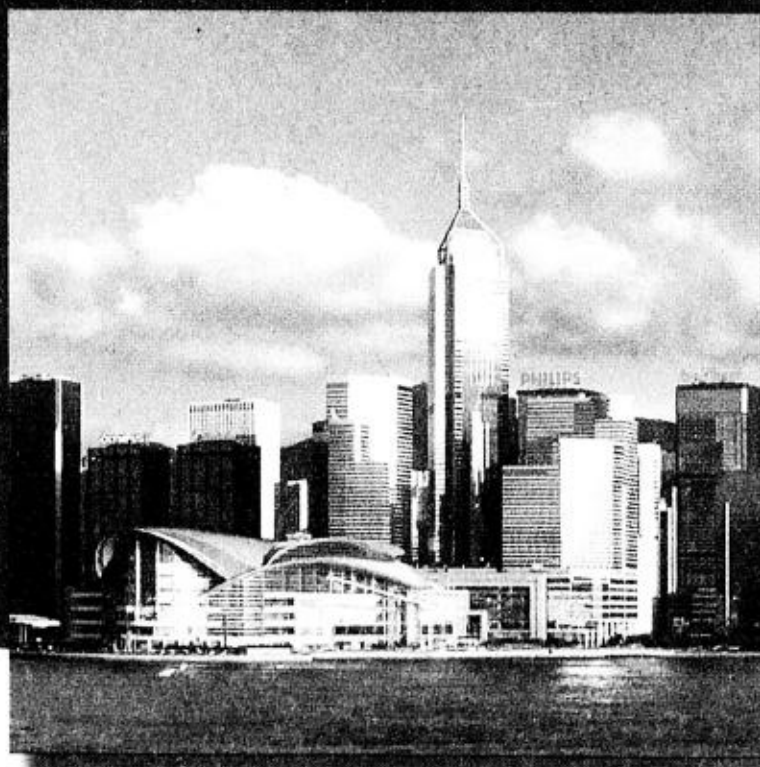
In Thailand, meditation teachings are widely available. You can attend a class at one of the teaching monasteries such as the International Buddhist Meditation Center in Bangkok and Wat Phra Dhatu Sri Chomthong in Chiang Mai.

There are two main branches in Buddhist meditation, says Piyasak Ritharom, tour manager of KBS Travel and Intertrade Co., Ltd. in Thailand and the official tour guide of Tourism Authority of Thailand. A former college

MEDITATIONS/ p.C3

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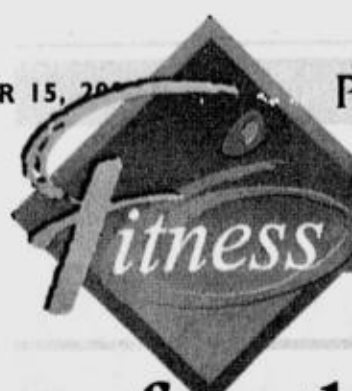


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Sugar for the sweet, but not if you're trying to lose weight

WHO says low-fat diets don't work? It is a known fact that many dieters on a low-fat, high-carbohydrate diet don't lose weight, and even if they do, they gain it back. This lose-gain syndrome wreaks more havoc on any dieter's body. This is according to "Sugar Busters," a book written by three renowned physicians—Morrison Bethea, Samuel Andrews and Luis Balart, plus a Fortune 500 CEO, H. Leighton Steward.

While several popular food products carry the welcome low-fat label, look closely. What you may not realize is that they include sugar. Some of your favorite foods contain sugar. While many may consider anything sweet as comfort or feel-good food, it isn't as safe to the body as most people think.

Hidden enemy

"Sugar causes the production of insulin which, in large amounts, keeps you from losing weight, no matter how strictly you diet or how often you exercise."

Because everyone overlooks the effects of insulin, one of the body's most powerful hormones, it is time to understand it better. The message is clear—sugar is toxic! To be specific, "refined sugar in significant quantity is toxic to many human bodies and it helps make many bodies fat." Sugar, apart from spoiling the teeth, acts as a stimulus to the pancreas to secrete insulin.

While insulin regulates blood sugar level, an overproduction will cause the body to store excess sugar as fat. Moreover, insulin prevents the body from mobilizing or getting rid of previously stored fat. Can the truth be more hurtful than this? Insulin signals the liver to make cholesterol. This simply means sugar equals insulin equals fat plus cholesterol.

Exercise/fitness buffs and athletes are cautioned: A very low sugar diet is probably not for you. Exercise requires glucose, a by-product of digested carbohydrate, in order to have calories to burn.

Glycemic index

Not all carbohydrates are created equal. Thus, certain foods are higher on the glycemic scale than others. This means that a high-glycemic food quickly turns to sugar and enters the blood stream immediately.

Ideally, any glycemic index higher than 55 is generally not recommended to dieters. (See chart.)

Highs and lows

"The higher the level of blood sugar, the more insulin needs to be secreted by the pancreas to utilize the glucose and bring the blood sugar level back to normal."

Thus, the lower the blood sugar, the less insulin "floods" the body, thereby preventing the metabolic changes present in high-sugar conditions. Therefore, a diet concept based on low glycemic carbohydrates such as high fiber vegetables, fruits, whole grain, lean meats and a moderate amount of fat will result in fat loss.

Did you know that . . .

- Red wine has less calories than a slice of white bread.
- Fruit is best eaten 30 minutes before or two hours after a meal (otherwise it will ferment in your stomach).
- Fluids should be sipped throughout a meal. Food "washed" by gulping down water interferes with digestion.
- Caffeine makes the stomach produce gastric acid, which stimulates appetite.
- Beer has more sugar than wine, which is why a dry red wine is the preferred alcoholic beverage.

And I can go on and on. The truth of the matter is that insulin is not bad for the body, but excessive amounts of it are. Again, the secret is moderation—especially to diabetics, hypoglycemics and the obese.

Apply it

But sugar can be safe with my favorite body and facial scrub. Liberally apply sugar mixed with 2 tsp of virgin coconut oil, corn or cooking oil all over your body. Rub firmly on stubborn and dry areas. On the face, use olive oil or virgin coco. Feel your silky smoothness within minutes. Rinse and shower.

To cut down on your sugar intake, first you must consider it bad for you. The next time you are tempted to binge on candies, chocolates, cakes, etc., this is what you should do—share it with a friend. Thus, instead of finishing your usual plateful, you only consume half. There is a sweet ending to this story after all.

Love and light!

"Total Wellness," the body, mind and spirit workshop with Jimmy Licaucio and Cory Quirino is scheduled on Oct. 26, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Magellan Room of Dis-

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino



covery Suites, 25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Now open for registration, with a 50-percent discount for students. Call 645-3706 and look for Cristy. Limited seating.

"Forever Young—Guide to Beauty and Wellness" is now a bestseller. Available at National Book Store and PowerBooks.

HIGH (56 and above)		MODERATE		LOW	
White rice	70	Pita bread	55	Rye grain	35
Rice cakes	85	Wild/brown rice	55	Lentils/beans	30
White bread	75	Oatmeal	55	Soy beans	15
Corn	75	Sponge cake	45	Green	0-15
French bread	75	Whole grain pasta	45	vegetables	15
Crackers	75	Bran	45	Tomatoes	25
Cereal	75	Milk	30	Grapefruit	25
White flour	70	Sweet potato	55	Cherries	5-30
White pasta	65	Yoghurt	35	Nuts	
Baked potato	95	Wheat Bread	45		
Ice cream	60	Peaches (fresh)	40		
Carrots	85	Apples	40		
Beets	75	Oranges	40		
Bananas	60	Pears/grapes	45-50		
Pineapple	65	Kiwi	50		
Raisins	65	Mango	50		
Watermelon	70				
Honey/					
Refined sugar	75				

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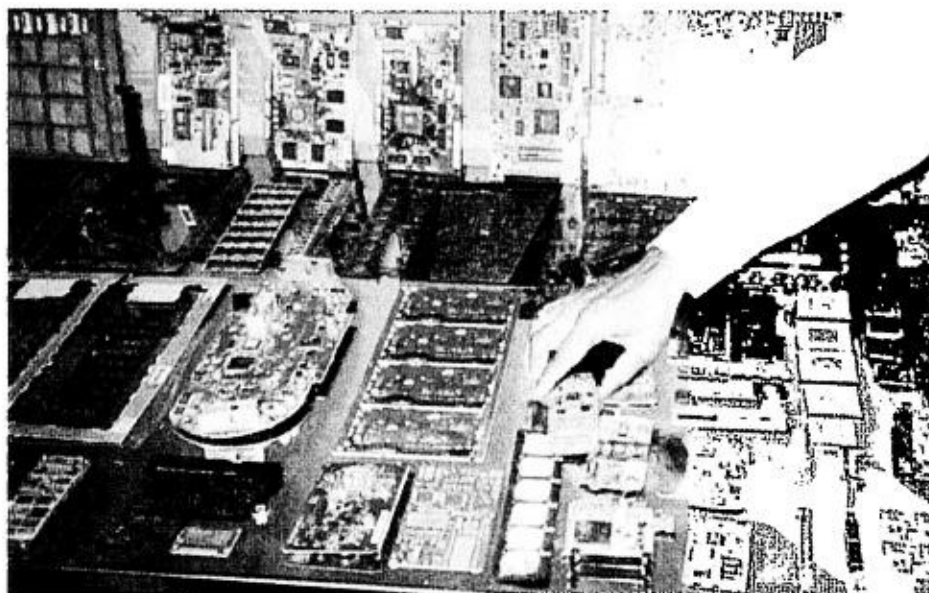
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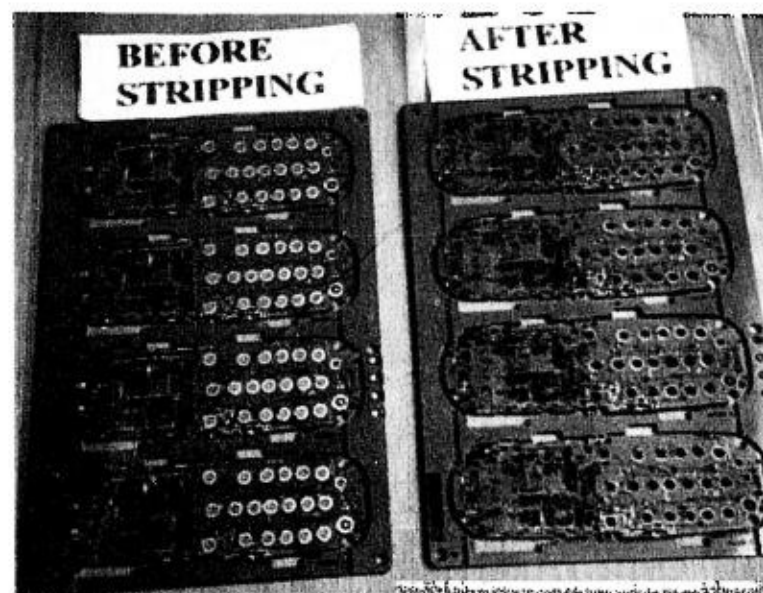




VENKATESH Murthy, Citiraya marketing manager, holds up samples of handypohones for recycling.



AN ASSORTMENT of semiconductor scrap, ranging from used disc drives, wiring chips, motherboards and Nokia-made handypohones, are processed daily at Citiraya.



OLD handypohones are stripped of their precious metals, like gold used in circuit boards.

Mobilizing people to recycle old handypohones

Text and photos by Vangie Baga-Reyes

WHAT'S worse than having an outdated, oversized cell phone these days? Having one that doesn't work. And what could be even worse is not knowing how to properly dispose of it.

Your broken mobile phones, including the obsolete brick-like, first-generation models, can now be disposed of properly and, in fact, be recycled so precious metals, plastics and other materials they contain can be extracted. The recycling of old phones—including busted batteries and casings—is being initiated by Nokia, the world leader in mobile communications, to help save and protect the environment.

"If you recycle your old phones, you take part in keeping the environment safe from the toxic and hazardous effects (caused) by careless disposal of electronic wastes," stresses Ian Broughall, Nokia regional environment manager for the Asia-Pacific. Normally, especially

in the Philippines, so-called e-wastes (electronic) are dumped into designated landfills (Payatas and Cavite). However, several tests on old batteries indicated that there were potential negative environmental effects from disposing of lithium and nickel-cadmium batteries in the landfills.

"Imagine this scenario: the chemicals squeezed out from the batteries would seep through the soil and stay there permanently. In the next generation, people will plant trees, which will be poisoned. Your children and your children's children will be the unfortunate victims," warns Broughall. Nickel-cadmium batteries used especially in older phones are already considered hazardous waste. Making recycling a must will mean other possibly harmful materials, like lead, will not end up in dump sites.

Nokia began its phone recycling "take-back" scheme in mid-2000 in Europe and South America. Themed "The Future is in Your Hands," the recycling strategy, now in the Asia-Pacific, encourages customers to join Nokia and take social responsibility in making



THE SOPHISTICATED recycling process of Citiraya can separate copper, silver and gold from circuit boards.

recycling work.

"We ask our customers to dispose of their used or old mobile phones, batteries and accessories of any make or model by surrendering them to us or by dropping them off at designated recycling bins provided by Nokia Care Centers," Broughall says.

Aware of its environment responsibility, Nokia partners with Citiraya Industries, a Singapore-based recycling company certified by the country's Ministry of Environment, to ensure that used mobile phones, batteries and accessories collected in the recycling bins are recycled in a safe and environmentally friendly way.

Singapore recycling plant

The take-back program is getting good feedback. Many consumers, especially in Europe, are actually returning their discarded phones, which Citiraya collects and recycles.

"Once the bins are full, they are collected and replaced within 48 hours. Their contents are then shipped to Citiraya for recycling," says Lucy Wright, Nokia environmental manager.

A recent media tour of Citiraya, sponsored by Nokia Philippines, showed how the recycling of discarded phones and other electronic products was being done in ultra-modern facilities. Citiraya, by the way, also handles the e-wastes of other top manufacturers in the electronic industry, including 3M, IBM, Philips, Motorola, Seagate and Gemplus.

The 105,000-square foot Citiraya complex, founded in 1998 by Ng Teck Lee and Ah Hua Raymond, houses state-of-the-art recycling equipment, such as machines to crush the electronic components and wastes collected. Crushed waste is divided into metallic and non-metallic materials. A regular cell phone unit consists of plastic (56 percent), metals (25 percent), ceramics and glass (16 percent) and others (3 percent).

"This plant is also environmentally friendly as it manages the by-products of the recycling process such as toxic fumes and waste water, which are potentially hazardous to the environment," says Venkatesh Murthy, Citiraya marketing manager.

Specialized equipment like incinerators, continuous emission monitoring systems, dust-collecting scrubbers and water treatment plants are used to achieve "zero landfill." The company follows the "zero landfill" philosophy for its internal processes, which means that even wastes generated by the company are looped back to the process so as not to add to the burden of public waste disposal facilities.

"Singapore is a city state with limited land area; we have to go beyond incineration and landfill. We need to do more to encourage recycling of products by consumers, recycling of used materials by industry, and reuse of bottom ashes from incineration. This philosophy of preventing, reducing and recycling wastes is especially relevant to electronic wastes because of the shortening of product life cycle," says Murthy.

"We also carry out a series of processes... to extract precious metals like gold, silver, palladium and platinum that we get from electronic products, including mobile phones," he adds. The sophisticated recycling process can separate copper, silver and gold from circuit boards. Citiraya is also careful not to cause air pol-

lution through emissions like smoke, gases, fumes and odors. To comply with emission standards, exhaust gases from the incineration stage of Citiraya's mechanical recycling process pass through a combustion chamber for conversion into non-toxic gases. The discharge level is monitored by a 24-hour online control system.

According to Murthy, mobiles represent just a minor part of the equipment processed by Citiraya. Most of the waste process consists of computers and household electronics. Phones, however, have valuable minerals that have to be properly disposed.

More than 800 million people around the world currently use mobile phones, and around half of phones sold are bought by people as a second unit. Nokia estimates that people change their phones around every two years.

At present, Citiraya manages about 15,000 tons of electronic wastes in a year.

Responsible phone users

"In this digital society, many of us cannot part with our PC, notebooks, cellular phones, laptops and so on, whether we are at home, in the office or on the road. The vehicles we ride on today are also equipped with more and more electronics. At the rate we are going, we can expect the pace of innovation to get faster, and the life span of electronic goods to continue to get shorter by the days," says Ng Teck Lee, president of Citiraya.

Mobile phone users are, thus, encouraged to do their share in protecting the environment by disposing of their old phones and accessories the right—and conscientious—way. With the designated Nokia recycling bins, the responsibility falls on the consumers.

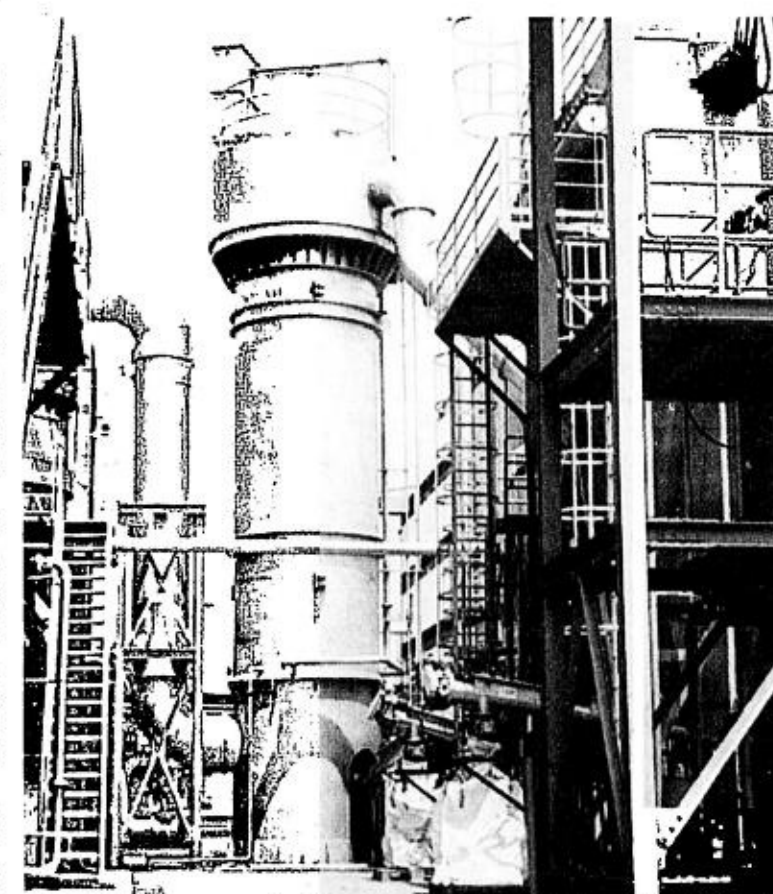
In the Philippines, Nokia recycling bins are located at Nokia Professional Center, Memo Express G/F Lansberg Place, Tomas Morato Ave., QC; Nokia Professional Center, Selectronics 5/L Festival Mall, Alabang, Muntinlupa City; Nokia Care Center, 2/F Power Realty Bldg., A. Arnaiz Ave., Makati City; Smart, G/F Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City; Semicon, 5/L Bldg. B, SM Megamall; Brightpoint, 4/F Gateway 2000 Bldg., 174 G. Araneta Ave., QC; Nokia Professional Center, Cellstar 2/L SM City, Cebu; Semicon, 3/F Gaisano Mall, J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City. For inquiries, call the helpdesk at 886-1234.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

Nokia's 'take-back' program allows consumers to help the environment



NOKIA-CITIRAYA ENVIRONMENTAL TIE-UP. Lucy Wright, Nokia environmental manager; Ian Broughall, Nokia regional environmental manager, and Ng Teck Lee, Citiraya Industries president



CITIRAYA complex in Singapore houses state-of-the-art recycling equipment, including incinerators and combustion chambers for efficient handling of e-wastes.

Battle of the Century!

Totoong Cheese vs. Fake Cheese

Kraft na m... cheese, pinagyanan pa sa... totoong cheese, pinagyanan pa sa... totoong cheese, pinagyanan pa sa...

Sarap ng totoong cheese, ibinagsak ang presyo!

Na... sarap ng totoong cheese, ibinagsak ang presyo!

Sarap ng totoong cheese, ibinagsak ang presyo!

Sarap ng totoong cheese, ibinagsak ang presyo!

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Sarap ng totoong cheese, ibinagsak ang presyo!

Sarap ng totoong cheese, ibinagsak ang presyo!

*Save up to P9.20 for every 500g, P4.65 for every 250g and P2.80 for every 125g of Kraft Cheez Whiz.



ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Use of intuition in writing

INNER AWARENESS



Jaime T. Licauco

FROM DENNIS Espada came this e-mail request: "I am an avid reader of your column. Can you please discuss intuitive writing, or how to use intuition and PSI abilities in creative and/or literary writing? Can you also recommend books on this subject? I'm planning to form a writers club."

I have not come across a book dealing specifically with intuitive writing. Intuition is a natural faculty or ability of our inner mind. It can be applied to any area of human activity or field of knowledge, including writing.

Intuition is primarily a "right brain"

function, that is, the side of the brain that is responsible for nonverbal thinking, creativity, imagination, synthesis and space relations. The left brain is responsible primarily for verbal and analytical thinking, such as logic, mathematical reasoning, technical and scientific thinking. Writing is both a left and right brain activity, unless you are doing automatic writing. Then it becomes primarily a right-brain function. In automatic writing, you are merely writing down what is being dictated to you by the spirit or, perhaps, your subconscious mind.

We can train ourselves to think intuitively, and such ability can be applied to writing as well as to other human activities.

Perhaps what is closest to intuitive writing is what is known as "inspired" writing. According to Greek mythology, the Muses can inspire a person to do creative work in music, literature and the visual arts. All the writer or artist has to do is to listen to his or her inner voice and his output becomes automatic. Ideas do not pass through the vigorous analysis of the left brain. Perhaps this is the closest we can get to an understanding of intuitive writing that is inspired, automatic and spontaneous.

Usually, such writings are products of our higher selves, or our subconscious mind. Sometimes such writings are done through the direct intervention of higher spirits, like the writings of the apostles of Jesus Christ, and other similar religious writings. In the early 1900s in the US, there was a housewife named Ms. Curran, who wrote a complete novel, which was completely dictated to her under trance by an invisible spirit named Patience Worth. It became a bestseller at the time.

It is possible for a person to open up himself to the murmurings or dictates of the spirit world or his higher self. This requires belief in and openness to experience the divine or spirit in our daily lives. If this is what you mean by intuitive writing, then, yes, it is possible to train or develop one's self for this.

Intuition has been successfully used not only in this manner, but also in management decision-making, diagnosis of illness, reading a person like a book and even seeing future events. It is a natural faculty possessed by every human being.

Unfortunately, our educational system, which is hopelessly patterned after that of the US, is biased in favor of developing primarily the left side of the brain and almost completely ignoring the development of the right brain. So we produce students who are high in analytical ability, or IQ, but very low in emotional and intuitive ability, or EQ.

I do not know any book on the use of psychic abilities in writing, but there are a good number of books on intuition development in general. One such book is an anthology titled "Intuition at Work," edited by Roger Prantz and Alex N. Pattakos, and written by 18 experts in the field, including this writer. It is a hardbound book published in San Francisco in 1996.

Unfortunately, I have no more copies of the book and it is not available in any local bookstore. You may still find one in the libraries of schools such as the Asian Institute of Management, Ateneo de Manila University and De la Salle University.

On the other hand, there are many excellent books available that teach people creative writing, how to write for a publication, etc.

Psychic ability

Somebody texted me the following question, which I find interesting: "If a psychic prays over another person, will that person become psychic, too?"

First of all, I want to point out that everybody has some psychic ability, because it is one of the faculties of the inner mind. But some have more developed ability than others.

Regarding this texter's question, I don't believe praying over a person will make him psychic. However, it may happen that a sensitive person may fall into a trance once prayed over, because of the energy generated by the prayer and, consequently, may accidentally open up his psychic centers, especially the solar plexus, throat and eyebrow centers, and therefore may become psychic. But that is the exception rather than the rule.

Address letters to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City, or e-mail jlicauc@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my new website at <http://j.licauc.tripod.com>. Listen to my d2MM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

World goes pink for breast cancer awareness

THE CABIN crew of Emirates will be wearing pink ribbons for the entire month of October in support of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an international campaign to raise awareness on ways to beat the disease.

Dr. Alasdair Beatton, head of medical services at Emirates, the Dubai-based airline which serves 62 cities in 41 countries, echoed the call for women all over the world to work on improving survival rates for women with breast cancer.

This month, Dubai's landmark Burj Al Arab, New York's Empire State Building, Pisa's Leaning Tower, Moscow's GUM department store, Niagara Falls, Capetown's Table Mountain, Vienna City Hall, Munich's Angel of Peace, the Tokyo Tower and other famous world landmarks, will be bathed in pink light in order to call public attention to the urgent need for knowledge and research to combat breast cancer.

Last Oct. 1, The New York Times, normally delivered in blue plastic bags, arrived in pink ones instead. In London, actress and Estée Lauder spokesmodel Elizabeth Hurley will light up Harrod's in pink.

The campaign, inspired by Evelyn Lauder, founder of the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, aims to make women aware that with early detection, it is 85 to

90 percent curable. The Foundation has helped to raise \$40 million to fund research in the nine years since it was founded. For information, visit www.bcrfcur.org

For details, call David Snelling, media relations manager, Emirates, PO Box 686 Dubai, 00 9714 +203 2165, fax 00 9714 +295 0758, e-mail media-relations@emirates.com. Or Neny Regino and Maribel Dario at 895-2021 or 895-8184.

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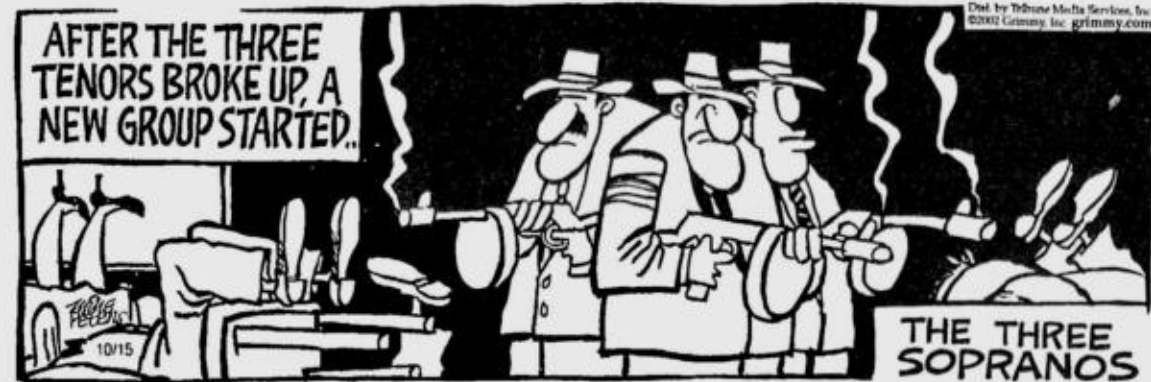
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ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sarah Ferguson, Penny Marshall, Emeril Lagasse, Jim Palmer
Happy Birthday: Should you choose to jump in with both feet, this can be an exciting year. Know that the hard work you have put in will pay off and be confident in your ability to finish with finesse what you start. Prosperity will be a given, but the prospect of in a much better personal life will be the biggest reward of all. Your numbers are 4, 19, 22, 25, 31, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Today will be rather hectic on the domestic scene. Expect interruptions from family members. Organize your day well if you wish to accomplish all you set out to do.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Go out to visit friends or participate in groups. Get involved in physical activities that will stimulate you and use up some of that excess energy you possess.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Insincere gestures of friendliness are likely today. Be careful what you say to whom. Put in some overtime rather than getting involved in family gatherings.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may not be that popular at home, but you should be able to shine at social gatherings. Don't let the opinions of family members get you down. Take time to enhance your appearance by making physical improvements.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't bother trying to make someone you live with see your point of view. Put your efforts into redecorating or inviting friends over. The distraction will be good for both of you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A little extra time spent on preparation now will save you time down the road. You can find out interesting information if you get a chance to talk to people you respect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will have the need to make some changes today. Your health may have suffered due to neglect or abuse. It's time to pay attention and listen to what your body and mind need.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may find that your emotional partner will not be too eager to accommodate you. Try to stay out of their way and do what you have to do. Don't make promises that you can't possibly keep.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may want to stay in the background today. Your depressed mood has been hard to shake. It's OK to take a time out from the action to regroup.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get out and rub shoulders with people in high positions if at all possible. There is an opportunity for you to obtain some very good information that could be helpful. You can make excellent investments if you are in the right place at the right time.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- bean
- Still-life picture
- Marine color
- Islamic republic
- Pacific island group
- Desensitize
- Nauseated
- King of Troy
- Pointed ends
- Shucks!
- Crosby movie
- Hobbits' home
- Understand
- J-N connection
- Caught forty winks
- Actor Martin
- Italian three
- Grow weary
- Ms. Leachman
- Med. readings
- Military tribute
- Diminish gradually
- Artist of the dollar bill
- at windmills
- Director Craven
- Call from the crow's-nest
- Song of loyalty
- Noah's craft
- Stately tree
- Of early Peruvians
- Slipped by
- Greek letter
- Having the skill
- Ferber and Buchanan
- Metric unit of mass
- Whipping scar
- Fang
- Network of pathways
- Puts down
- Creative exam
- Fills with reverence

DOWN

- Speech defects
- March 17th celebrants
- Infamous 1933 kidnapper
- Turkey's capital
- 6th sense
- Reheat
- Eastern ruler
- Wanders
- Revolver inventor
- Freeze front?
- Hanna-Barbera's cartoon horse
- Ref's relative
- Midsection muscles, casually
- Shed tears
- Emblem
- Singer Frankie
- Nine sisters of mythology
- Maravich of basketball
- Period
- Beta follower
- Sexual equality grp.
- Magnetic flux density unit
- Make roof repairs
- Blue
- Sportscaster
- Scully
- Satellite of Saturn
- The one here
- "Variations"
- IBM feature from 1981
- Astound
- Identities
- Oh, why not!
- Eve's grandson
- Information
- Leather worker's tool
- Actress Arthur
- Timid

Monday's Puzzle Solved

USAF	AWASH	PRAY
LENO	MOSEY	RARE
TWO	FAKIND	EMMA
REDDEN	STRAW	
ARE	DDE	ARABLE
	DUAL	CONTROLS
SCRIP	FUSTY	RAY
LOAM	MITTS	TOME
ECO	SUSIE	SONAR
DOUBLE	HEADER	
SALOON	LET	PTA
	PESTO	TIERED
CUSP	TWIN	ENGINE
OGRE	EELER	IDOL
THOR	RESTS	SERE

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



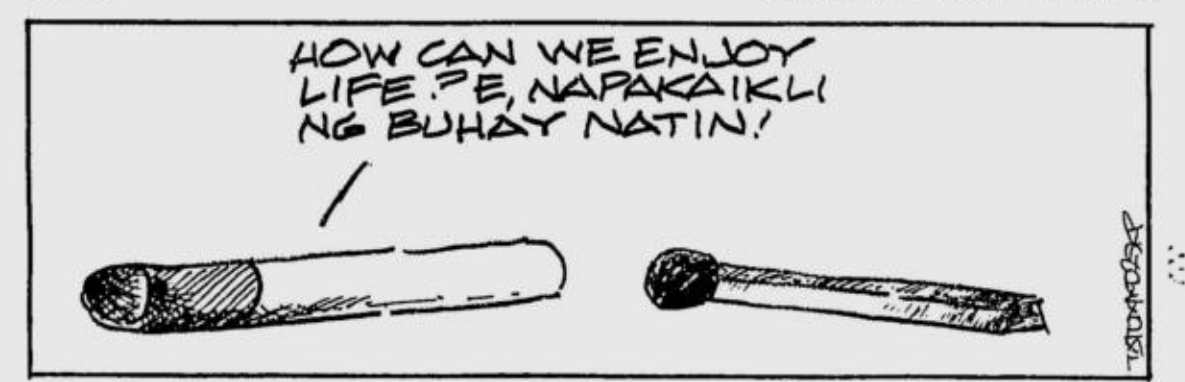
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING





THE SM Megamall (left) and Southmall Ice-Skating Teams that participated in Bangkok



Skaters bring home gold, silver and bronze

SM recently feted its world championship ice-skating team members, who brought honor to the Philippines during the recent 22nd ISI World Recreational Team Championships in Boston, as well as the Skate Asia Competition in Bangkok.

The euphoria of winning was definitely in the air as the team members presented their awards, medals and trophies to the SM management and the Ice Skating Union of the Philippines. It was also a chance for the skaters to meet their sponsors—PAL, Pepsi and Accel, the latter two represented by Felix Yu, Philipp Go, Louie Ortiz and Louie Orosa.

Thirty-three skaters from the SM Megamall and Southmall teams participated in the 22nd ISI World Recreational Team Championships in Boston, and made

our country proud by bringing home 49 gold, 34 silver and 22 bronze medals. It was quite a feat, considering that 111 teams and 4,000 skaters competed this year.

Standout skaters included Nikki Anne Nicolas, Bien Bergonia, Kara Damian and San Francisco-based Katherine Illenberger. Bien and Kara had so much impressed the judges that they were tapped to perform during the benefit show.

After Boston, some of the skaters proceeded to Bangkok for the Skate Asia Competition in Bangkok. The results were equally impressive: 159 gold, 197 silver and 56 bronze medals.

Two-time UAAP awardee Susie Quibol was the team's most bemedaled skater with a total of eight gold medals. It was also a gold haul for Nikki Anne Nicolas, who won five gold medals in six events.



SOUTHMALL'S Cara Sumabat's winning form at the Skate Asia 2002 in Bangkok, Thailand



BRIAN Choi bagged three gold medals in Boston.



PEPSI Cola's SVP Felix Yu

RIZZIANNE Tolentino brought home five golds, two silvers and one bronze from Bangkok.



RAMIL Roman, ISUP Las Piñas Chapter president, presents his team's trophy to SM's Ric Camaligan in Bangkok



LARA Gilua in Boston



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-673, Series of 2002

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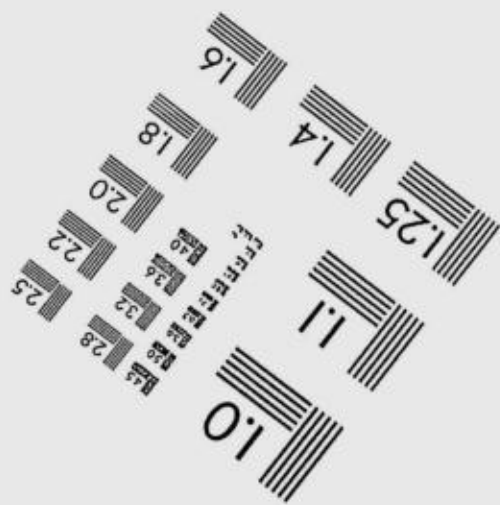
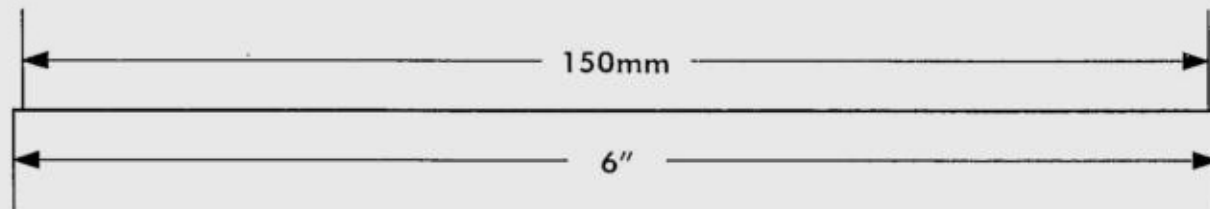
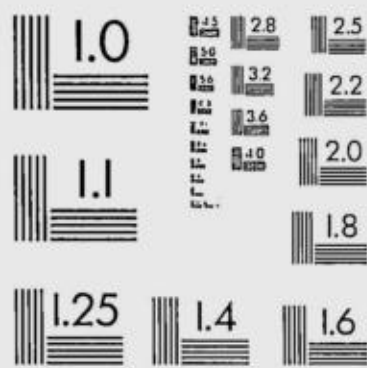
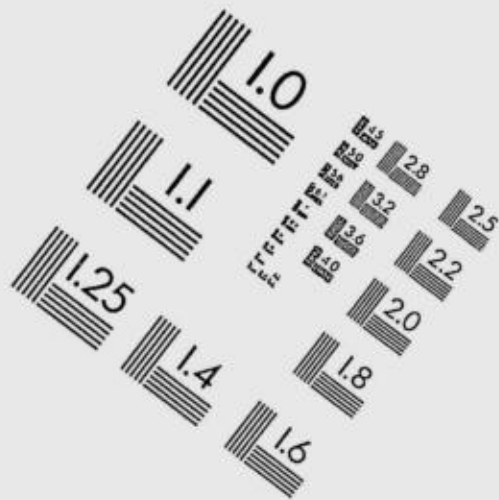
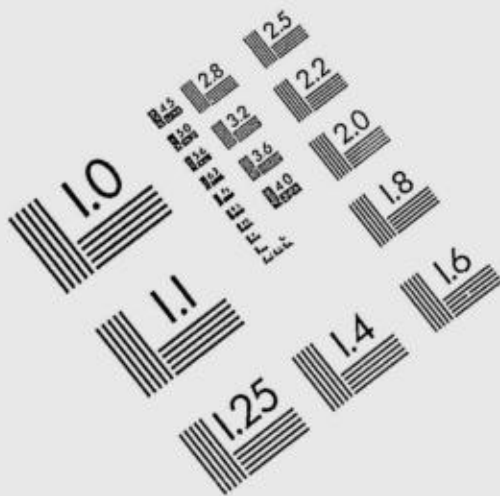
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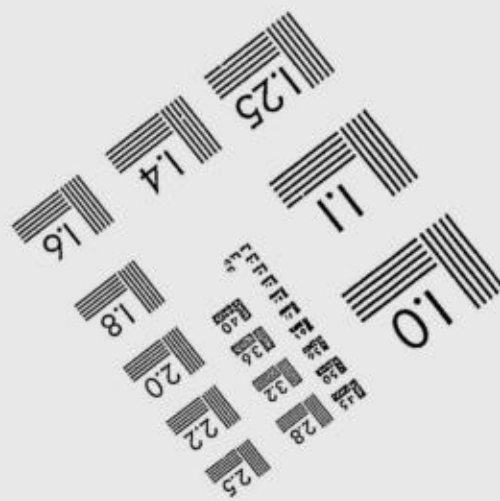
See mechanics poster for details

Per DTI-ILOILO Permit No. 08-295 Series of 2002

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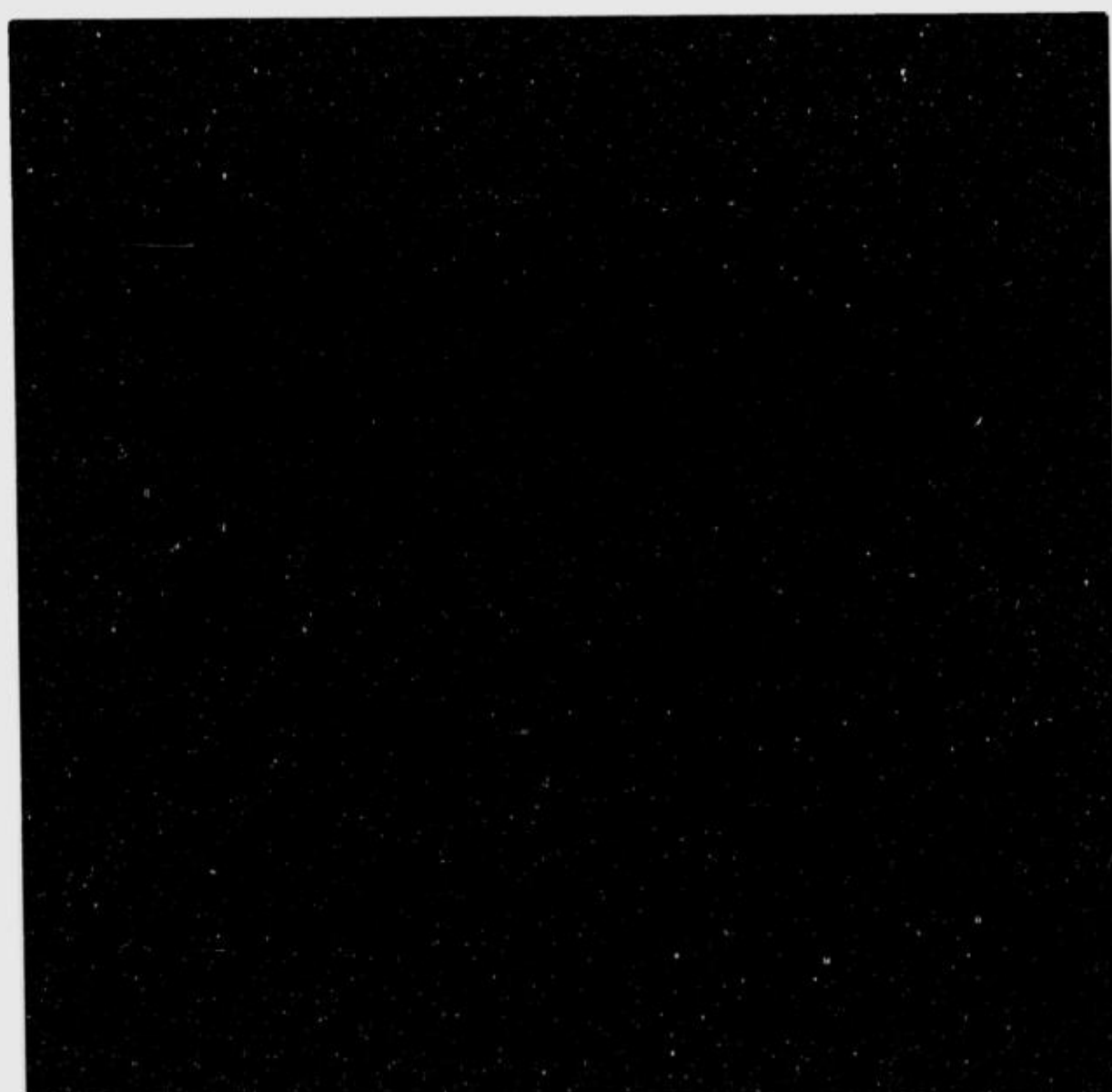
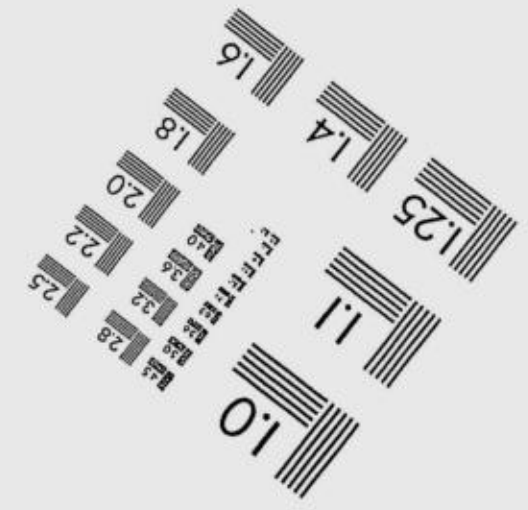
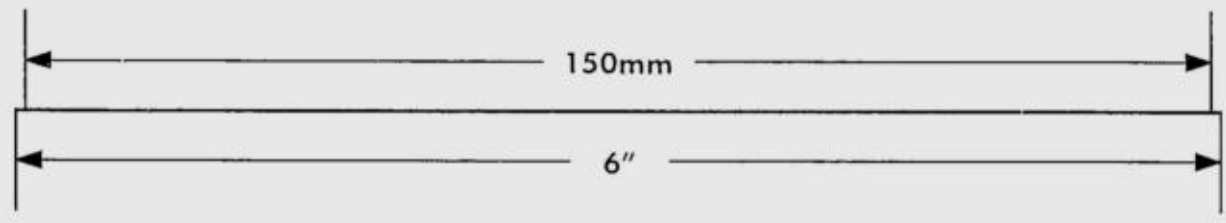
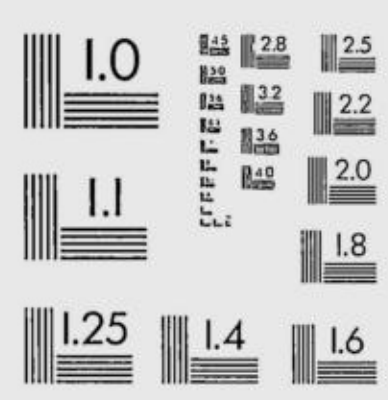
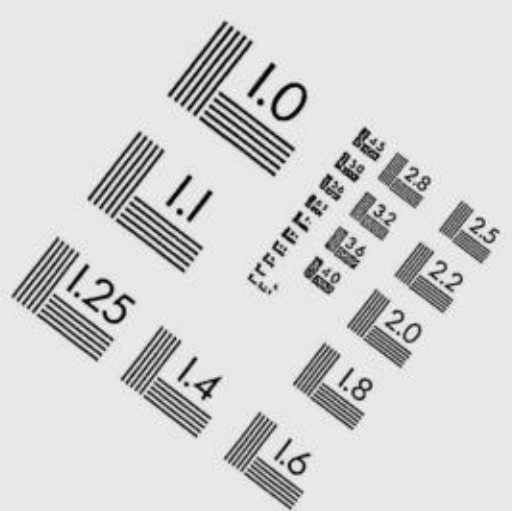
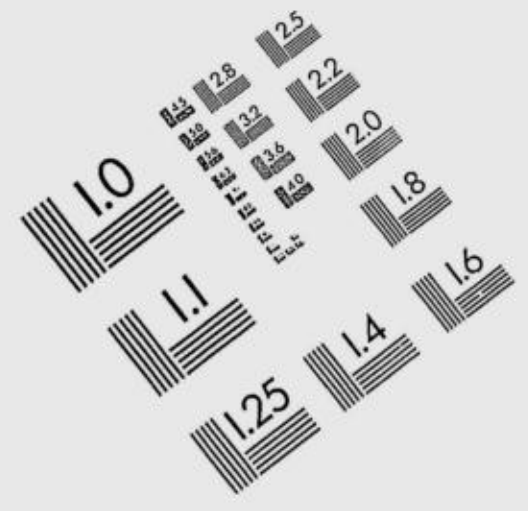


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